

Vandals go to war with drills, petrol bombs and curry

Telecom detectives smash gangs of call box thieves

By Tony Dawe and Andrew Morgan

THE SAD STORY OF 051-207 3106

British Telecom is mounting its biggest assault on thieves and vandals who wreck telephone boxes.

Thirty-five detectives using radio-controlled cars are working round the clock as most of the resources of the company's investigation department are poured into the operation.

This month they have made 75 arrests and smashed five gangs of thieves who use cordless drills and a special "corkscrew" device to steal thousands of pounds from call boxes.

The operation is proving effective in deterring what Telecom's managing director Mr Mike Bett calls the "thieves' and knavery" which has given the payphone service a bad name.

The latest monthly survey of call boxes to be published by OfTel, the government watchdog, tomorrow will show that more call boxes are in working order, although the company still has a long way to go to reach its target of 90 per cent of payphones working.

Telecom has always been reluctant to discuss its investigation work for fear of encouraging further assaults on its 79,000 call boxes. But the attacks have reached such a disturbing level that the company agreed to allow *The Times* to join its operation.

"Our task is to tackle the 19,000 serious payphone offences recorded in the last financial year", Mr Dennis Gotts, head of the investigation, said.

"They cost the company £1,250,000 in lost cash alone and also affected the serviceability of the payphones which, in turn, affects the public's perception of British Telecom."

"Minor vandalism is difficult from a detective point of view. So we enlist the help of community groups and the police while we concentrate on the organized thieves."

"The call boxes are a sitting target for them. Telecom leaves a lot of money out there on street corners and people can make a regular living from them. Taking £100 a day is not uncommon. But it won't be worth their while if our campaign is successful."

The history of the traditional red telephone box on the corner of Foley Street and Smith Street in Everton underlines the task facing British Telecom. It has been repaired 40 times since last June, mostly after attacks by thieves or vandals. This is its story.

June 5, 1987: Handset stolen. Replaced June 9.
June 15: Wire cut. Replaced June 17.
June 24: Returned coins shute damaged. Replaced July 6.
July 6: Glass smashed. Replaced same day.
July 14: Dialling numbers damaged. Replaced July 16.
July 22: Coin shute attacked. Replaced July 24.
July 28: Coin slot attacked. Replaced next day.
July 30: Mechanical fault. Replaced same day.
Aug 3: Dialling numbers damaged. Keypad replaced Aug 6.
Aug 13: Shute attacked. Replaced next day.
Sept 2: Handset stolen. Replaced next day.
Sept 10: Handset damaged. Replaced same day.
Sept 21: Coin shute attacked. Replaced next day.
Oct 5: Coin slot damaged. Replaced next day.
Oct 22: Handset stolen. Replaced Oct 24.
Nov 4: Coin shute attacked. Replaced same day.
Nov 17: Handset broken. Replaced next day.
Dec 1: Coin slot damaged. Replaced next day.
Dec 14: Coin slot damaged. Replaced Dec 16.
Jan 4: Mechanical fault. Replaced Jan 6.
Jan 8: Coin shute attacked. Replaced next day.
Jan 13: Routine fault. Replaced next day.
Jan 25: Coin shute attacked. Replaced next day.
Jan 27: Mechanical fault. Replaced same day.
Jan 28: Coin slot damaged. Replaced Jan 30.
Feb 3: Mechanical fault. Replaced Feb 5.
Feb 5: Mechanical fault. Replaced Feb 8.
Feb 9: Coin slot damaged. Replaced same day.
Feb 10: Coin slot damaged. Replaced next day.
Feb 12: Coin slot damaged. Replaced next day.
Feb 16: Glass broken. Replaced same day.
Feb 16: Mechanical fault. Replaced next day.
Feb 18: Coin slot damaged. Replaced next day.
Feb 21: Handset broken. Replaced same day.
Feb 22: Coin slot damaged. Replaced same day.
Feb 23: Attacked again.

The armoury employed by the thieves includes hydraulic jacks, sledgehammers and Hilti guns as well as the drills and "corkscrews".

But a wave of more simple crimes has also overtaken Telecom. Every day, scores of people are jamming the mechanism of call boxes to prevent used coins being returned. The thieves return to the boxes hours later to collect their "winnings".

"We call them 'stuffers' and they are at work in every London and in many other cities", Mr Gotts said. "We estimate they can make £50 a day in Liverpool and up to £200 a day at busy stations."

Nearly fifty stuffers have been arrested in the present campaign, which is directed from the 23rd floor of the Euston Tower in London. A computer receives daily reports of call box damage from

every telephone district and identifies patterns in the attacks so that the detectives can plan their operations.

This information has, for example, helped them to pinpoint the district of Liverpool being worked by one persistent "stuffer" and monitor the movements through East Anglia of a gang of "corkscrew" thieves. The detectives then set up surveillance operations which led to arrests.

If attacks are expected in a specific area, vulnerable call boxes are fitted with alarms.

Surveillance operations have been carried out as far apart as Glasgow and Cardiff, Birmingham and Merseyside, where the battle to beat the thieves and vandals is being waged at its fiercest.

Merseyside, with two out of every five boxes regularly out of order, has the worst record in Britain.

Debris from boxes attacked with a sledgehammer litters the floor of Mr Phil Couch, the investigator commanding the operation in Liverpool. "Every type of attack experienced in the country has happened here. It is the centre for systematic phone box theft."

The *Times* sat with the team in Liverpool as two young "stuffers" arrived for their spoils, one keeping look-out while the other removed the sweet-papers used to jam the box. A radio call alerted police, who made the arrest.

On the most recent stake-out, investigators watched as a youngster entered the box and, realizing coins were jammed in it, tried to remove them. "We had to arrest him quickly to get him out of the way before the real villain arrived", Mr Couch said.

Wanton vandalism, with no attempted theft, is behind a far greater percentage of non-serviceable boxes. In the Liverpool area, some 20 per cent of the 2,000 boxes are vandalized every month. Some have been petrol-bombed, others filled with burning tyres, or the machinery worth £1,500 attached to a motorcycle and wrenched off.

Other vandalism centres on melting the plastic number-buttons (the fumes are often sniffed), smearing curry-and-chips over the mechanism and attacking the most vulnerable apparatus: the receiver.

The Liverpool team have innovated deterrent techniques - such as anti-drill plates, metallic receivers and metal casings for the cord - which have been adopted nationally. But it is still hard to combat the gang which uses a car jack until the machinery breaks from its bracket.

Changing the Guards' rifle



Close-up advice for Lance Corporal Glynn Crawley from Garrison Sergeant Major Perry Mason as crowds at Buckingham Palace yesterday saw a return after nearly 20 years to soldiers carrying their weapons "at the slope" during ceremonial parades. The Irish Guards, who are using the latest SA80 rifle, took over duties at the palace in yesterday's Changing of

the Guard from the Royal Artillery, who were equipped with the older SLR rifle, which has to be carried "at the shoulder" because of its shape. Among those watching the Guards were three boys injured in the Enniskillen bombing last year, Clive Armstrong, aged 16, and Ian Carson and Stephen Ross, both aged 15. (Photograph: Peter Trievnor)

Guinness family hit by another tragedy

By David Sapsted

Members of the Guinness family gathered in Ireland yesterday after the death of Mr John Guinness, the latest tragedy to affect the brewing and banking dynasty.

Mr Guinness, aged 52, was killed when he fell 500 ft on Snowdon at the weekend. He was with a walking party when he fell from a snow-covered path on their descent from the 3,560 feet summit.

Police said the party, which included Mr Guinness's son Ian, aged 26, and three friends, were ill-equipped for the descent.

In 1986, gunmen pistol-whipped Mr Guinness at his home near Dublin, before kidnapping his wife Jennifer, aged 49, and demanding £2 million ransom. Eight days later she was freed.

Also in 1986, Miss Olivia Channon, daughter of Mr Paul Channon, the Cabinet minister and member of the Guinness family, died after taking drugs.

Lady Henrietta Guinness fell to her death from a 250 ft aqueduct in Italy in 1978. In the same year Miss Natalya Cukovitz, aged 17, daughter of Guinness heiress Lady Caroline Lowell, died from suspected alcohol asphyxiation. Major Dennis Guinness was found dead with a bottle of pills by his side and Peter Guinness was killed in a car crash.

A decade earlier Guinness heir Tara Browne, aged 21, was killed in a road accident. *Obituary, page 12*

Harbour sale

Ballast Pound, a tidal harbour at Torpoint, Cornwall, which dates from 1785, is expected to fetch about £110,000 when sealed bids from tenders are opened on Wednesday.

Women behind in race for top jobs

By Roland Rudd

It is still harder for women to get to the top of the Civil Service than men, a government report says.

Some progress has been made towards equality for women in the Civil Service, but fast-stream women are still progressing slower than men, a study by the Cabinet Office shows.

Half the men who joined the Civil Service fast stream in 1972, and remained in it, had reached the senior Grade 5 by 1987 compared to only 14 per cent of the women.

The problem for women is that despite their relative success in areas of recruitment such as executive officers, in the all-important administration trainee grade they fare noticeably worse than men.

The administration trainee grade is of crucial importance if women are to get to the top of the Civil Service, because a woman's career pattern often includes a break.

The report says: "This means that unless a woman is in the fast stream with the opportunity to grade-skip, her

career development is limited by the simple factor of the time required to progress."

But the report shows that women are better represented in some grades.

In 1982 women represented only 12 per cent of those at the higher executive level compared to 18 per cent in 1987.

The Treasury's Manpower Statistics division predicts that at 1983-85 promotion rates, women will represent 30 per cent of administrative Grade 5 in the year 2016, compared with 8 per cent in 1987.

To help women with their domestic responsibilities, several departments have made their flexible hours even more flexible, and the number of part-timers has increased from 2.3 per cent in 1982 to 4.2 per cent in 1987.

Miss Sue Corby, deputy general secretary of the First Division Association for top Civil Servants, said: "The report demonstrates that progress towards equality has been limited and that it is uneven across departments".

Burdens of jobless on women

An unemployed husband in the house can cause depression in some women, according to a council report.

The three-year study of admissions to St George's Hospital, Morpeth, Northumberland, says unemployed husbands can upset the domestic routine and add to financial and housing problems.

Social services officers on North Tyneside, where average unemployment is 16 per cent, rising to 80 per cent in some areas, are studying proposals to ease the pressure.

Mrs Jean Scagroatt, who heads the area council's sub-committee on women's issues, said: "What was found was that mental illness is caused largely by women having to bear the brunt of family responsibilities due to the husband's unemployment. The resulting depression can lead to feelings of low self-esteem and isolation."

The council is considering increased child-minding, nursery and creche facilities. About 900 people are admitted to the hospital from North Tyneside each year.

Prints show their true value

Sotheby's New York has just completed a marathon sale of nearly 2,000 prints, ranging from Old Master works to those of the present day.

The sale took three days, ending on Saturday, and achieved impressive results, including nearly £500,000 for two Rembrandts. The print has proved it is no longer the poor man's version of true art.

There was a great deal of bidding by private buyers, many of them Europeans, and the sale went at a slow pace. It took place in two phases.

First came prints from general sources and second came Old Master prints from the collection of the late Dr Albert W. Blum. He was a German engineer born in 1882 who became a key figure in the Swiss steel industry as well as a distinguished collector before emigrating to the United States during the Second World War.

A friendship with Werner Weisbach, the art historian, helped him to develop his connoisseurship.

In both sections it was works by Rembrandt which topped the price scale. In section one a tiny drypoint etching of "Christ Preaching" of about 1652, almost doubled its lower estimate of \$60,000

SALE ROOM

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

(about £35,000), selling at \$115,500.

In the Blum section - 268 in total - the runaway top two prices were also achieved by Rembrandts. Both had identical subjects: the 1656 portrait of Rembrandt's colleague, the goldsmith Jan Lutma.

The first is described as "a superb, rich and brilliant impression of the first state of three". Estimated at \$150,000 to \$200,000, it fetched \$486,000, a record for a Rembrandt print portrait.

The second, which has a slightly downgraded description as "an extremely fine, rich impression of the second state of three... printed with warm, smoky tones", sold for \$429,000, against an estimate of \$380,000 to \$120,000.

Albrecht Durer was the next most popular artist, again in the Blum section, when his engraving of St Eustace sold for \$22,500 (estimates up to \$80,000).

The picture, executed with exquisite clarity of detail, shows the saint in a medieval

landscape, a castellated town in the distance, having just descended from his horse to pray, surrounded by hunting hounds and deer.

Other high prices included \$143,000 - more than ten times its estimate - for an anonymous fifteenth century German hand-coloured woodcut of the Good Shepherd carrying the lamb on his shoulders.

Another Durer - of St Jerome in his study, his attribute, the lion, sleeping in the foreground, fetched \$72,600 (estimate \$40,000 to \$60,000).

Good prices for twentieth century artists were on a more modest scale. Picasso's semi-abstract "Still Life under our Lamp", its light creating a pattern of colour against an otherwise dark ground, sold for \$93,500 (estimates \$60,000 to \$70,000) and his lithograph of a "Woman in a Flowery Blouse" fetched \$82,500 (estimates \$50,000 to \$60,000). They were bought by a Japanese dealer.

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Thatcher's praise for talent of run-down area aids battle for jobs Home town man leads an urban revival

Four months after the Prime Minister, on a visit to Teesside, praised the area's initiative, talent and ability, progress towards a better future for the place is outstripping all expectations.

Teesside's urban development corporation set up to stimulate investment and bring jobs to one of Britain's most depressed regions, says it will achieve its initial optimistic objectives years ahead of schedule.

The corporation, which is working with local authorities in the area, is unashamedly selling itself at home and abroad on the words used by the Prime Minister on her visit.

Mr Duncan Hall, chief executive of the corporation, is confident that Teesside is heading for a big regeneration.

He said: "We have already nego-

The names of the consultants who will carry out feasibility studies on the urban development corporations proposed for Leeds, Bristol and Manchester are expected to be announced this week by the Department of the Environment. Peter Daviesport has been to see how the corporation covering the largest and one of the most deprived areas of the country is progressing.

tiated agreements that will create 3,000 new jobs and bring in private sector investment of £150 million with very little of the corporation's own money put in."

Mr Hall, aged 40, has a career background that has prepared him well for the difficult task of bringing about a renaissance of Teesside, an area with more than 50,000 people out of work, 21 per cent of the population.

His last post before moving to Middlesbrough was as chief executive of Corby in Northamptonshire, a position he took up in 1979 only weeks before the announcement that the town's steelworks, the

biggest employer in the area, was to close.

The closure threw 13,000 out of work and sent unemployment to 35 per cent. Mr Hall was one of the key figures in the regeneration of Corby. Almost 500 companies have been attracted to the town, unemployment percentage is back to single figures and the watershed of £1 billion in new investment has been passed.

Having fought that battle once, why start again with a task that is, if anything, more difficult? Mr Hall said: "The answer may sound true but it is true nonetheless. I gained a lot of experience the hard way at

Corby and then by travelling around the world to look at other areas of economic need.

"I was born in Middlesbrough and lived there until I went to college. My family still live here and I wanted to use my experience in the interests of my home town."

The Government, which puts much of the emphasis of its urban policy on the development corporations, will be spending £600 million on the corporations over the next three years, according to the latest expenditure White Paper.

The initial task of the Teesside corporation, which covers an area of 12,000 acres, making it bigger than all the other urban corporations put together, has been to alter the public perceptions of the area.

For anyone driving into Middlesbrough for the first time along the main A19 trunk road, the sudden

vista of towering chimneys, power stations and chemical plants belching out smoke and fumes is daunting.

However, as Mr Hall emphasized, this is not suburban Surrey; it is an industrial town whose people depend on those chimneys and factories for their livelihood: the more industry the better.

Among the achievements of the corporation since September are a £10 million joint venture with the local port authority to develop the site of the last shipyard on the Tees, Smith's Dock, into an important offshore technology base. About 400 of the expected 1,000 jobs are already in place and a development to create dry dock facilities for ship repair will create a further 750.

When Mrs Thatcher went to Teesside, she said the area had real potential. Mr Hall has the task of realizing that potential.

WHITEHALL BRIEF by David Walker

Penny watchers held to account

Not long ago Mr Howard Davies, controller of the Audit Commission, made a brave speech asking whether the management consultants increasingly being retained by local authorities and health districts to tell them about value for money were worth the large fees they commanded.

It was brave because Mr Davies came to the commission from McKinsey, a very expensive management consultancy firm, and might one day want to return to them.

It could be plausible if Mr Davies' central government counterpart, the Comptroller and Auditor General, Dr John Bourn, one day felt the urge to make a similar speech.

In the wake of the Government's acceptance of the gist of the Ibbotson report, the volume of consultancy work commissioned by departments is likely to grow. Firms such as PricewaterhouseCoopers are already giving thought to how they could assist the new executive agencies (such as the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Directorate) draw up "framework agreements" with their parent departments.

Dr Bourn could certainly ask a number of apposite questions: why does the central register of consultants kept in the Treasury not contain qualitative assessments of consultants' work; who collects information centrally in Whitehall about consultants' fees and makes value for money comparisons between the various firms; and who collates the information on consultants gathered by management services units in departments?

Dr Bourn might, however, feel a little inhibited by the fact that last week Ernst and Whinney, an accountancy firm that has expanded into consultancy, announced that it had taken on as special adviser Dr Bourn's immediate predecessor, Sir Gordon Downey, who left the National Audit Office at the end of December. "Tremendous experience... knows how government works", Mr Elwyn Eilledge, of Ernst and Whinney, said.

He might have added that Sir Gordon's is a very impressive name to put on the letter head when Ernst and Whinney applies to Whitehall for contracts.

Names count for a lot. The consultants who have specialized in Whitehall form a small group, distinguishable more by which former Civil

Servants they employ than their size. For example, Kinsley Lord, a small outfit, has Mr Stephen Taylor, formerly in the Department of Transport, and Mrs Margaret Exley, formerly of the Cabinet Office. Price Waterhouse has Mr Ian Beesley, former head of the Efficiency Unit.

It is not that individual departments are not able to monitor the service offered by these highly-paid consultants, but that they may not pass on to each other their assessments of the value of consultancy work.

The consultants' pitch often emphasizes the rigour with which they will appraise efficiency, or lack of it, in a department. However, no mechanism exists



Sir Gordon Downey: impressive on letter head.

for rigorous assessment of the consultants.

The growing use of external consultants does not wholly fit with the approach right from the start of the Financial Management Initiative, the scrutiny of Civil Service performance by one of Whitehall's own, motivated by his or her attachment to a go-getting efficiency unit.

This was the basis of Lord Rayner's programme of studies which saved £1 billion of public money. Lord Rayner, now chairman of Marks & Spencer, received an award last week from the European Institute of Public Administration.

According to the citation that went with the gold medal, Lord Rayner's work has inspired modernization programmes in other countries "and European institutions are drawing from Lord Rayner's methodology".

Europe, according to the newspaper headlines last week, is exporting to the UK its tax regimes, but the UK is exporting in return its methods of running central government.

Current affairs land-lock Sir Francis



Off Duty: Sir Francis Tombs, chairman of Rolls-Royce, with his grandchildren at his home in Hoxington, Warwickshire. They are, from left, Alan, aged three, Philip, seven, Graham, nine, and Stephen, eight. Sir Francis, aged 63, is also chairman of the engineering firm Turner & Newall, of the Engineering Council and of a science advisory council. The approaching annual reports of the two

companies are occupying his work time. "Both come out next month and we have to finalize all the results and get them straight. There is also the Advisory Council on Science and Technology, the thing the Prime Minister has just set up. We are getting it into shape and I'm preparing for a meeting with the Prime Minister to propose some fairly big changes in the funding of science and technol-

ogy." Away from business affairs, Sir Francis enjoys, or used to enjoy, sailing. "Because I don't have the time I have not sailed for years", he said. "I have a little flat in the South of France and I think that when I retire I shall have a boat there." His favourite hobby is music. "I go a lot to opera and concerts and often listen to records. I play the piano a bit too. I have a secret ambition. It will probably never be

achieved for all sorts of reasons, principally talent, but I would love to play a large church organ." Sir Francis, who has a Daimler, not a Rolls-Royce ("we don't make them"), is on the look-out for a 1933 Alvis Firebird. "I'm an engineer you see, and I love to tinker and you can't really tinker with a modern car."

Report and photograph by Stephen Markeson

Anti-fraud team takes on recruits

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs
Correspondent

The Serious Fraud Office, the Government's new weapon against the growing ingenuity of criminals, will take on its first cases soon after Easter.

For the first time, investigation teams tackling serious or complex fraud will include a police officer, an accountant, an investigating lawyer and a prosecuting lawyer from the beginning of every case.

The aim will be to pool expertise to solve the biggest frauds while the trails are hot.

Up to 50 police will be in the same headquarters building, in Elm Street off Gray's Inn Road, central London, but they will retain their constitutional independence.

About twenty senior accountants and twenty experienced lawyers have been recruited so far. Some lawyers have been brought in from private practice.

It is also intended to bring in senior accountants from the private sector but most on the staff now have come from government departments which tackle fraud, including the Department of Trade and Industry, Customs and Excise and the Crown Prosecution Service.

The relationship with police will be finely tuned, leaving them to exercise their powers without impinging on the responsibilities of the Serious Fraud Office in its prosecution role.

The intention is to focus throughout the investigation on coherent, clear evidence that can be brought to court at the end of the day if prosecution is decided on, rather than becoming bogged down in confusing and time-wasting blind alleys.

Mr John Wood, director of the Serious Fraud Office, or his staff will be able to require someone under investigation to answer questions and produce documents.

There is no absolute right to silence and a refusal to comply is a criminal offence punishable with up to six months' imprisonment and a fine of up to £2,000.

The new headquarters will have computer terminals for data fed in as investigations progress. The Serious Fraud Office intends to use latest techniques of presentation, such as video screens linked to computers, for presentation to judge, jury and opposing counsel.

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Building levy for arts urged

By Andrew Billen

An architects' pressure group is urging the Chancellor of the Exchequer to divert to art projects a percentage of the expected imposition of value added tax on new buildings.

Speakers at a weekend conference of Acanthus, an association of architectural practices, said Mr Nigel Lawson should force developers to spend capital on public art works.

The so-called "per cent for art" policy has been adopted for decades abroad, including many American states. The Arts Council is expected to

support the policy in principle at its meeting next month.

A national campaign for the scheme was launched at the conference by Mr Theo Crosby, a London architect and artist. He said the expected charging of VAT on new buildings, to bring Britain in line with the European Community, presented an opportunity for the Government to devote at least 1 per cent of the money raised to public art.

He said: "Old cities are full of works of art of all kinds. In the Middle Ages art and

architecture were one and the same thing; it is only in recent times that the link between artists and architects has been severed, making modern cities barren and depressing places."

One per cent of the annual construction budget in Britain would provide £250 million for art, and would help to lead the way back to beautiful cities, he said.

Edinburgh, the venue for the conference, has already adopted a policy to ensure that 1 per cent of the cost of new buildings work goes to art. A working party is looking at how the scheme will work.

Motorway repairs

£23m Euro grant for bypass

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

The European regional development fund has awarded £23 million towards a New-castle upon Tyne bypass.

It is said to be the largest single grant the fund has made for a project in England. The cost of the scheme will be £88 million.

It will provide more than seven miles of dual carriageway from the Gateshead western bypass to the A6125 and the A1 north of Gosforth. Work is due to be completed in 1990.

London and South-east

M11 Essex: contraflow between jns 8 and 10 (Bishop's Cleeve/Oxford). M25 Surrey: overnight lane restrictions between jns 11 and 13 (Chertsey/Staines), and various lane closures outside peak times between jns 6 and 12 (Godstone/M3).

M275 Hampshire: construction continues between the M27 and Rudmore roundabout on a fly-over due to open on Thursday.

Midlands

M11 Northants: various off-peak lane closures between jns 16 and 17 (Northampton/M45).

M1 Leicestershire: contraflow at jn 23 (Loughborough).

M5 West Midlands: various lane closures between jns 1 and 2 (West Bromwich/Dudley).

M5 Hereford/Worcester: contraflow between jns 5 and 6 (Droitwich/Worcester north).

Northbound entry slip at jn 6 closed; various lane restrictions and overnight carriageway closures between jns 4 and 8 (Bromsgrove/M50).

North

M6 Cheshire: off-peak lane closures in both directions between jns 16 and 18 (Kilgobbin/Middlewich); lane closures in both directions between jns 20 and 21 (M56/Warrington).

M6 Lancashire: contraflow between jns 29 and 31 (A6 Chorley/A59 Preston); improvement work starts today with the northbound entry and exit slips at jn 34 (Lancaster) closed.

M56 Greater Manchester: resurfacing and contraflow between jns 6 and 4 (M57/A3058).

Petrol pump attendants could return to the forecourts because it is believed that drivers are prepared to pay extra for personal service.

Of the 20,600 petrol stations, the biggest 8,742 are self-service. Mr Vivian Thomas, marketing director of British Petroleum, said that with the increasing affluence of motorists, "it is possible we will be able to justify offering service at a premium".

Entry slips from the airport closed, diversions.

M62 Greater Manchester: one lane closed in each direction between jns 12 and 14 (M63/M61).

M63 Greater Manchester: single lane traffic between jns 3 and 6, long delays likely; restrictions for widening of Barton Bridge, serious peak hour congestion; construction of flyover at Portwood roundabout, Stockport.

A1 (M) South Yorkshire: contraflow and slip road closures between the A635 inter-

change at Marr and the A638 interchange at Redhouse, diversions.

Wales and the West

M4 Wiltshire: outside lane closed eastbound and 2 westbound lanes closed west of Membury services.

M4 Wales: contraflow between jns 36 and 37 (Bridgend/Portcawl).

M5 Gloucestershire: various lane closures in both directions between jns 9 and 12 (Tewkesbury/Gloucester).

M5 Somerset: series of lane closures on both carriageways between jns 21 and 28 (Western-super-Mare/Cullompton).

Scotland

M8 Lochline: eastbound traffic down to hard shoulder only at jn 3 (A899), eastbound entry slip at jn 3 closed.

M8 Strathclyde: eastbound lane closures between jns 16 and 15 (Glasgow city centre/Townhead), eastbound entry slip at jn 16 and eastbound exit slip at junction 15 closed on Sundays; overnight lane restrictions between jns 27 and 29 (Renfrew/Paisley).

M9 Central: inside lane closed in both directions between jns 5 and 6 (Glasgow/Falkirk); jns 11-10 (Glasgow), drainage repairs, southbound inside lane closed.

M74 Strathclyde: southbound lane closures between jns 6 and 7 (Hamilton/Larkhall); north of jn 8 outside lane closed southbound until Saturday.

M90/A90 Fife: single lane traffic in both directions on the M90 at jn 1.

Information compiled and supplied by AA Roadwatch

Chinese Compensation

The Foreign Compensation
(People's Republic of China)
Order 1987

Her Majesty's Government announces that this Order is due to come into effect on 1 March 1988. Copies are available from HMSO.

A fund of about £20 million will become available for distribution to those who can satisfy the terms of the Order.

A claim may be made by a claimant who satisfies the British nationality requirements of the Order or by a corporation, firm or association incorporated or constituted under laws in force in the United Kingdom or in any country or territory for whose international relations Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom is responsible.

Claims may be made:

- in respect of bonds issued or guaranteed by the Chinese authorities before 1 October 1949; claimants will need to show that they were British and the beneficial owner of the bonds on 4 June 1987; and
- in respect of property or other assets expropriated in China between 1 October 1949 and 1 January 1980; claimants will need to show that they were British both at the date of the loss and on 5 June 1987.

It is likely that the total amount of claims will greatly exceed the amount available for compensation and that distributions will be only a small percentage of the amounts claimed.

Application forms and explanatory leaflets may be obtained by sending the coupon below to the Foreign Compensation Commission, c/o Ernst & Whinney, Alexandra House, Kingsway, London WC2B 6TT. (Telephone: 01-379 7088).

Claimants whose claims were accepted for registration under The Foreign Compensation (People's Republic of China) (Registration) Order 1980 will be contacted so far as possible, but should nevertheless return the coupon.

Please note that completed application forms in respect of bonds must be received by 30 June 1988. Those in respect of property, debts and other claims must be received by 31 August 1988.

To: Foreign Compensation Commission, c/o Ernst & Whinney, Alexandra House, Kingsway, London WC2B 6TT.

Please send me an explanatory leaflet and application form for (Please tick as appropriate)

Bond claims ☐ Property debts and other claims ☐ for official use only

I was/were not a 1980 Order applicant (Please delete as appropriate)

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS

Surname/Name of Company _____
Forenames _____
Address _____
Telephone number: Home _____ Work _____
Company contact name (if applicable) _____ Date _____

WORLD ROUNDUP

Moscow 'ready for UN embargo'

Bahrain (Reuter) — The Soviet Union appears ready to agree to a UN arms embargo against Iran and a Security Council resolution could be in place within three weeks, Mr David Mellor, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said.

He said yesterday that Britain would be prepared to consider a demand from Moscow that an embargo should come into force after a waiting period of between 30 and 60 days to allow for further negotiations to end the Iran-Iraq war. He said that the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, had received assurances from his Soviet opposite number that Moscow would act quickly on an embargo.

'Guinea pig' dies

Paris — Pascal Louette, the 24-year-old human guinea pig used by a French doctor in an experiment, died in Amiens hospital yesterday from meningitis.

Last week, a court hearing the case involving two doctors from Poitiers hospital accused of causing the death of a patient under anaesthetic, was told that the inanimate Mr Louette had been given pure nitrous oxide for a short period to test the reaction. The aim of the experiment, which was carried out without official permission, was to examine the symptoms in a patient receiving nitrous oxide instead of oxygen.

Cyprus talks offer

Nicosia — President Vasilou of Cyprus offered in his inaugural address yesterday to meet the Turkish Prime Minister, Mr Turgut Ozal, at a place and date of his choosing to discuss ways of reuniting the divided island. (A Correspondent writes).

His address was televised live and could be seen by Turkish Cypriots in the north of Cyprus, separated from the majority of Greek Cypriots after the Turkish invasion 14 years ago. Mr Vasilou had already offered to meet Mr Rauf Denktaş, who heads the self-proclaimed independent republic in the north, but not as a fellow President.

Dingo case resumes

Sydney — Mrs Lindy Chamberlain returns today to the same courtroom in Darwin, Northern Territory, where almost eight years ago she was convicted of murdering her daughter, Azaria, in Australia's controversial dingo baby case. (Our Correspondent writes). This time, however, the state is expected to admit to the Supreme Court that a strong case exists for her conviction to be quashed. Last year Mrs Chamberlain and her husband Michael were pardoned, but they have continued a legal battle to clear their names.

Indians to Sudanese hold fire

Colombo (AP) — India will halt its military operations in eastern Sri Lanka for 48 hours to try to persuade two Tamil women to end a hunger strike, a Sri Lankan official said yesterday.

The women have been fasting in a Hindu temple in the eastern city of Batticaloa for the past nine days and are reported to be seriously ill.

They have threatened to commit suicide unless India declares a ceasefire and Tamil rebels agree to discuss a settlement. The Tamil Tigers guerrilla group said it was prepared for "unconditional talks" with India.

Israeli seeks asylum

The younger brother of Mr Mordechai Vanunu, the former nuclear technician accused of revealing Israeli atomic secrets to *The Sunday Times*, is to appeal for asylum in Britain (Andrew McEwen writes). Mr Meir Vanunu, pictured right, an Israeli law graduate who is staying in London, said yesterday that, if he returned to Israel, he would face imprisonment for having divulged to the press details of his brother's secret trial.



Afghanistan peace talks

Pakistan dilemma as accord nears

From Michael Hamlyn, Islamabad

Pakistani politicians and officials spent yesterday in a flurry of last-minute consultations before their delegation left for Geneva for United Nations proximity talks on Afghanistan.

One observer declared that the furious activity indicated that the Pakistan Government has still not decided what its attitude should be to the "endgame" in the eight-year war in Afghanistan.

The final round of indirect negotiations in Geneva on the four instruments leading to withdrawal of Soviet troops is widely expected to be over quite quickly.

"The Russians have said they see no problems arising, which presumably means that they intend to be accommodating over the final details," the source said.

But Pakistan is now anxious for an agreement on an interim government for Afghanistan before the instruments are signed. The Soviet Union has set its face against linking the Geneva accord with the establishment of a new government, although it acknowledges the desirability of a broad-based administration.

It is still far from clear if Pakistan will refuse to sign without such an agreement in place.

Mr Zain Noorani, the Minister of State who will be leading the Pakistan delegation, is expected to return after three days of talks in Geneva for a further round of consultations. Leaders of the opposition parties, including the non-parliamentary opposition, have been invited.

Yesterday's consultations began with a briefing for MPs involving President Zia. Mr Noorani spoke to MPs, and heard their views in the three-hour session.

He told them: "The situation is more delicate than that obtaining in 1965 in the context of Pakistan's security." (In 1965 India and Pakistan were at war.)

In the evening, the Senate and the National Assembly met separately and then together in a joint session. The joint session was held in camera and journalists were warned that any reporting of what went on would be contempt of Parliament. Finally, there was a late evening cabinet meeting.

It was suggested that another explanation for the last-minute round of meetings in Islamabad could be the difference in attitude between Mr Mohammed Khan Junejo, the Prime Minister, and President Zia.

A leading opposition figure in the National Assembly said yesterday that he could detect different nuances between the statements of the two men, while other observers pointed out that each represented different interests.

Mr Junejo, who technically runs the Government, is anxious to consult as much opinion as possible to conduct a policy with broad general backing, whereas President Zia represents the interests of the Army and the civil service, which have benefited greatly from the huge amounts of military and other aid.

The Americans are keen to point out here that there is no difference between the attitudes of the US and the Pakistan Government on the desirability of establishing an interim administration in Kabul.

But a matter taxing the Americans more keenly is the desirability of obtaining a cut-off of the Soviet arms currently being supplied to Kabul.

War-weary Iranians catch bus to West

From Roger Boyes, Agri, eastern Turkey

The wait was the worst. We tried to discuss camel wrestling. For 90 minutes there was no conversation, no mime even. Then my companion, a displaced Armenian, stood up abruptly as if about to deliver an after-dinner speech and said, "Now it's coming."

At first the bus was a dot, an insect on a windscreen, but grew steadily larger, crossing the plain until, coughing under the strain, billowing steam which froze in the air, it drew up, precisely on time — a 1950s square-jawed American vehicle that takes hundreds of Iranians a week out of a messy, unwinnable war.

They are called the bus people (a conscious echo of the Vietnamese boat people) and they are both relatively poor and relatively lucky. Strapped on top of the bus are the women wear fur because the passage through the mountains is cold — Mount Ararat, looming like a theatrical backdrop, is snow-capped — and because the skins fetch good prices when traded in West Germany.

The women took off their veils after the Turkish frontier and stuffed them into side pockets, their faces painted for Istanbul for this rundown town of Agri, a former centre for Kurdish robbers.

The men, middle-aged enough to

get Iranian passports, are in grubby sheepskin. The bus stops long enough for petrol, provisions, water, coffee for the driver, then moves on. Nothing else will happen in Agri today.

More than 7,000 Iranians a month are escaping their war through the Turkish mountain passes. Altogether there are just short of a million Iranians in Turkey, an uncomfortable presence that the Turks, maintaining a careful neutrality in the Gulf War, would like to forget about.

The buses cross at three main border checkpoints: Agri is near the northern frontier post. The buses are virtually waved through. Iranians do not need a special visa for Turkey unless they stay longer than three months. If they do extend their stay, there is really no one to know.

The bus people en route for Istanbul are the fortunate ones (though not the richest: the wealthy fly effortlessly from Tehran). Under the coats of the bus people are leather purses full of uncut diamonds to finance the next stage of their odyssey. Most have sold everything they own, or at least as much as they can without attracting suspicion.

If one falls into the right category, obtaining an Iranian passport is not too difficult. For those of military age, even those approaching it — 14-year-olds, say — a passport is almost impossible. Iran is worried about its

manpower shortages after seven years of war and does not encourage (to put it mildly) emigration or dodging conscription.

These potential conscripts are the "illegals". They fly to Tabriz, the Iranian airport closest to the border, make a show of going on holiday, book hotels. Then comes the first step in the long series of pay-offs that may eventually see them all the way to England or the United States.

The guides across the frontier are usually Kurds, even Kurds who are technically supported by Iran. For a down payment of about £250 and the same again on the other side of the border, the tough Kurds will take conscription dodgers through the minefields and into the hills. The locals have lost so many animals in the minefields that the patterns are now known by everybody. The trip is at night, by mule. Sometimes, if there is a border alert, the fleeing Iranians have to camp out.

I talked to one of the illegals, who insisted on being called Mike. "We sat around eating yoghurt, moved forward only at night or when the patrols were supposed to have their lunch break. The mountains are full of caves and the Kurds made them quite habitable. But we were scared after a day or two that the Turkish side of the dead had collapsed and that the Kurds would cut our throats."

The Turkish border guards usually look the other way for money or

politics — or both. Once into south-east Turkey, the groups of Iranians are picked up in a Jeep by Turkish escape organizations and are taken across the country to Istanbul.

The Kurds are playing peculiar games. They are fighting, of course, for Kurdish independence and are accordingly exploiting the Iran-Iraq war. The Kurdish Workers' Party serves as an irregular force behind the Iraqi lines, but has been known to carry out raids in Turkey and Syria.

The Kurds are not really steered by the broad categories of world politics; rather they fight blood feuds between families while carrying on their old profession of smuggling. The latest Turkish haul was \$160,000 (about £91,000) in notes well forged in Beirut and smuggled into Turkey by the Workers' Party. Although some Kurds were caught trying to change the dollars on the black market, the operation seems to have been a contract job for the Istanbul Mafia, who use the counterfeit currency in their drug business.

There is no room on the bus, although the driver is willing, for a price, to throw off a Persian family. Instead, we follow in a *dolmuş*, a kind of collective Turkish taxi, in this case a creaking old Dodge. When we meet again the passengers have relaxed enough to talk.

"We've had enough," says a man in ill-matched clothes who looks like a survivor from a shipwreck. He

learned his English in Bournemouth and wants to set up a travel agency in New Mexico. "Too many young people are being taken away — every house has lost somebody, or been touched somehow."

His own brother was killed last year in what was supposed to be a final offensive against Iraq. Now his ambition, like that of an earlier Iranian generation, is to give his children a Western education. "It's not just the war, it is the whole uncertainty about what will come next."

The passengers talk about a kind of social paralysis in Tehran. Nobody wants to take on new projects, or have more children, until there is some clarity about what or who will succeed Ayatollah Khomeini. People eat well — at least in Tehran — and have become more private and less ostentatious about their wealth, but are gripped by the idea that a new leadership and a protracted war will restrict travel and burn bridges with the West.

The bus people are convinced that their future will be shaped not in Iran but in America or Britain. Yet the road to those countries is as difficult as anything they have encountered with the Kurds; it will cost them their diamonds and much more. In Istanbul, their next stop, they will be spied on, perhaps blackmailed, at best bludgeoned by bureaucrats.

Next: The Way Out

Gorbachov granted breathing space by Armenia protesters

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Relative normality returned to the troubled Soviet republic of Armenia yesterday as Mr Mikhail Gorbachov won a temporary reprieve from the huge nationalist demonstrations which were threatening to sabotage his programme of liberalization.

But in the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh itself, members of the majority Armenian population were continuing to demonstrate in the streets of the small capital, Stepanakert, in pursuit of their demand to be reunified with Armenia.

After a secret meeting with two Armenian envoys, Mr Gorbachov's unprecedented appeal to the demonstrators has won a pledge that the protests will be halted for a month while the Kremlin works out a solution to the territorial dispute between Christian Armenia and its Muslim neighbour, Azerbaijan.

But a leading Soviet dissident, Mr Sergei Grigoryants, who has just returned from the Armenian capital of Yerevan, said that demonstration organizers decided that, although protests would be suspended in the Armenian capital, they would continue in the disputed region itself.

The gravity of the unrest was further exposed when a senior Soviet prosecutor, Mr Alexander Katushev, said on local radio in Azerbaijan that two people had been killed in disorders in a district of the republic bordering on the disputed region.

Although the dispersal in the Armenian capital of demonstrators, who at one stage numbered more than 500,000,

was a notable victory for the Soviet leader, Western diplomats noted that it had left only a short deadline — until March 25 — to solve what is a complex and highly sensitive problem.

The protesters are demanding the reincorporation of the mountainous, mainly Armenian-populated region of Nagorno-Karabakh into Armenia, which lost its historical control in 1923 when the disputed territory was handed to Soviet Azerbaijan.

It was disclosed yesterday that, during his secret talks in the Kremlin, Mr Gorbachov met the Armenian national poetess, Silva Kaputikyan, aged 67, and the writer, Zori Balayan, who said they were assured by the Soviet leader that the problem would be "justly solved".

The two then flew back to the capital of Yerevan and appeared on local television, after which the protest organizers agreed to give Mr Gorbachov a month's grace. "But there is no doubt that, if the solution is not good, they will be out again in their hundreds of thousands," an Armenian source said.

The two envoys reported that, during an hour-long conversation, Mr Gorbachov expressed satisfaction that there had been no violations of public order during the nine days of the demonstration, adding: "But you are stabbing the perestroika in the back. You are seriously harming our reform process."

During the protest — the enormity of which still remains a closely guarded secret from most of the Soviet population — some of the

demonstrators carried portraits of Mr Gorbachov in an attempt to display their loyalty to the Soviet state, which they still value as a guardian from neighbouring Turkey which Armenians accuse of massacring their fellows in 1915.

"What the Kremlin has got to devise is a formula which will satisfy the Armenians without at the same time infuriating the Azerbaijanis," a senior European diplomat explained. "They also have to find one that will not immediately ignite new nationalist fires all over the Soviet Union."

The two envoys also held three hours of discussions in Moscow with the Politburo's propaganda chief, Mr Alexander Yakovlev, the Kremlin leader's main backer on *glasnost* and *perestroika*.

According to residents of Yerevan, it was only after the two writers had returned there and reported that the demonstrators decided to respond positively to Mr Gorbachov's earlier broadcast appeal that they should return "to normal life and work".

Silva Kaputikyan quoted Mr Gorbachov as admitting that the Communist Party's Central Committee had been wrong to describe the demonstrations as the acts of "extremists".

Reporting of the affair in the official Soviet media has betrayed the strict limits of *glasnost* and has given normal Soviet readers and viewers little idea of the momentous events which have been taking place in the southern border republics.

Leading article, page 11

Californians' paradise lost

From Charles Bremner, Los Angeles

California hospitals began mailing up notices over the weekend warning that their premises are hazardous to health.

And according to signs being put up in Los Angeles petrol stations, drivers are being exposed to "chemicals known to the state of California to cause cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harm".

Since Saturday, the good life of southern California suddenly looks more dangerous. Drowning your sorrows is no solution — shops, bars and restaurants now warn that drinking alcohol can cause birth defects.

The reason is a controversial law which requires prom-

inent public warnings if people are being exposed to certain toxic substances ranging from asbestos and benzene to chromium and lead.

Although the law was launched by a referendum in 1986 called Proposition 65, its implications are still confused and a dispute is raging over legal liability.

The onus is on the seller to tell a customer if his product is deemed toxic, and the fine is a stiff \$2,500 (£1,560) per day for each case.

To make things worse for business, the law signed by Governor George Deukmejian 10 days ago has a "bounty clause" which awards 25 per cent of the fine to the citizen

who spots the violation. The law took effect on Saturday.

After near-panic in the food business, the state agreed to exempt edible products for the time being from individual labelling beyond the amount required by federal law. The grocery manufacturers' lobby said every single product in a supermarket contains some trace of the 29 chemicals on the first hazard list.

The level set by the state is such that a daily dose of the substance over a lifetime should be expected to produce no more than one excess cancer per 100,000 people.

While the food makers argued, the petrol stations and hospitals and other public places put up their signs.

Smiles amid Panama crisis



The newly-installed President Solis Palma having his arm raised by General Noriega in a rally outside the presidential palace in Panama City after being sworn into office.

Ousted president pledges to secure removal of Noriega

From Martha Honey, Panama City and Christopher Thomas in Washington

Señor Eric Delvalle, the ousted president of Panama, has gone underground and is vowing to stay in the country and lead opposition to General Manuel Noriega.

In a telephone call to an American journalist in Panama, Señor Delvalle said he is still the "constitutional president" and will not go into exile as demanded by the military. "I'm going to stick it out. I'm going to fight all the way," he was quoted as saying.

Señor Delvalle said that he would not disclose his whereabouts, but he denied reports in the government-controlled Panamanian press that he is at a US military base. The US Southern Command and the State Department in Washington also denied the reports.

Relatives say Señor Delvalle escaped virtual house arrest on Friday night and went into hiding after being tipped that the military planned to deport him.

Family members and the US Ambassador in Panama, Mr Arthur Davis, say they are in touch with Señor Delvalle and that he is "safe". His two daughters have taken asylum in the US Embassy.

Señor Delvalle has achieved more political prominence since his removal from office than he did during three years

as General Noriega's hand-picked figurehead President.

The crisis began on Thursday when Señor Delvalle unsuccessfully demanded the resignation of General Noriega. US officials have advocated General Noriega's removal because of his alleged involvement in drug trafficking, money laundering, electoral fraud and murder.

A national strike has been called by the country's Civil Crusade organization, a coalition of business and professional groups to which Señor Delvalle has now pledged his support. The strike did not occur over the weekend, but organizers say they expected shops, banks, offices and public transport will close from today.

The action could not come at a worse time for the stricken economy. The Government is virtually out of money and this month may be forced to lay off 10 to 20 per cent of the civil service. In addition it may not be able to pay some \$400 million (about £226 million) due on its foreign debt.

The effects of the partial US economic boycott are also now becoming apparent. The US has halted economic and political aid to Panama and has decided to no longer pay

preferential prices for Panama's sugar crop.

With the notable exception of Nicaragua, the countries of Latin America have nervously positioned themselves with the US in publicly opposing the Noriega leadership.

President Reagan cancelled a planned weekend at Camp David as US officials studied a limited range of options. With military intervention firmly ruled out, there is little more that the Administration can do to undermine General Noriega's rule.

Even so, there is a clear determination to keep the international spotlight on the military strongman. Mr Reagan will probably declare tomorrow that Panama has not fully co-operated with the US in cracking down on the flow of drugs from Latin America, requiring him under a US law to impose sanctions.

● BOGOTA: The Latin American "Group of Eight" has been reduced to seven after Panama was expelled by foreign ministers of the other member nations meeting in the Colombia city of Cartagena. (Geoffrey Matthews writes).

The decision was based on the group's fundamental principle that democracy must reign in member countries.

EEC daydreams about key role on world stage

EEC foreign ministers meet their counterparts from Central America in Hamburg today to see how Europe can contribute to the Central American peace process.

Next weekend the ministers meet again, this time in a relaxed atmosphere at Lake Konstanz, near the West German-Swiss border, to review other European foreign policy aims under Bonn's presidency, which ends in June.

With the farm issue at last out of the way — apart from a few post-summit hitches — the programme laid down by Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, for tackling other matters is under way. The EEC will be getting to grips soon with its relations with the Gulf, the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) and Comecon, the East European trading bloc.

The February 13 deal overhauling the common agricultural policy has

at last opened up the possibility of an EEC for once not obsessed with cash. The CAP accord, imperfect as it is, reforms a system set up to avoid famine but which led to absurd surpluses. The deal limits farm output, reduces farm spending until 1992 and increases revenues.

The EEC now can move forward to the creation of an internal market by 1992, a Europe in which people, goods and capital freely cross frontiers. In theory, a European identity will take shape, with EEC citizens loyal to Europe as well as to their own country.

Some European visionaries go further: Europe might at last begin to act in unison on the world stage, emerging as a third superpower. To adapt the old adage about West Germany, the EEC is an economic giant but a political dwarf. In the 1990s this should change, the visionaries claim. Some American observers in Brussels even suggest

that, as American influence on world events declines, Europe has the chance to fill the gap. Britain, having lost its own imperial role, would find a new world role as part of a powerful EEC.

The reality, however, is that the three main EEC states — Britain, France and West Germany — all have very different traditions and

Brussels View

By Richard Owen

national interests. Foreign policy, as applied to individual states, rests on perceived national interests. Britain and France have world roles and links which echo their pasts: Germany looks to Central Europe; Spain, Italy and Greece have special links with the Arab and Mediterranean worlds; and Denmark associates with the Nordic countries.

Forty years after a devastating

European war, it is still difficult to see what the common foreign policy interests of the EEC might be.

Trade is another matter: the EEC undoubtedly has common commercial concerns vis-à-vis the United States or Japan. It has a common commercial policy, with a Commissioner in Brussels for external relations (not foreign relations). But in the long run, a European foreign policy can emerge only as the consequence of European unity — it cannot precede it. Neither, for the same reasons, can Europe formulate a common defence policy until it has achieved greater internal cohesion.

Some Brussels diplomats wonder whether we can wait that long, as events push the Twelve towards political stands on issues from the Middle East to South Africa. EEC trade policy — for example, towards Comecon — inevitably carries with it profound political implications, and cannot be conducted in isolation.

But since there is no coherent EEC policy on East-West relations or any other world issue, the EEC is left trying to formulate what amounts to a combined trade and foreign policy without being able to act as a cohesive unit on the world stage.

Central America illustrates this. The EEC will today reaffirm its support for the Arias peace plan, involving a ceasefire followed by democratic reforms, and will give further economic aid to Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Guatemala. But there is no overall aim, it seems, beyond vaguely reinforcing "European values", such as democracy and human rights.

The day when the EEC is taken seriously in the world's troubled regions as a united, global superpower is still far off and may never arrive. But the problem of shaping a European foreign policy is becoming more urgent.

South Africa's neo-Nazi storm troopers rally round for white supremacy

Afrikaner diehards call for state free of Jews and blacks

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

About 7,000 members of a white neo-Nazi extra-parliamentary group waving swastika-like flags attended a tumultuous meeting in Pretoria at the weekend, and called for a separate state for Afrikaner whites in South Africa.

The parliamentary high priest of old-style apartheid, Dr Andries Treurnicht, meanwhile, angrily rejected allegations that his own family's ancestry was less than lily-white and that Coloured (mixed-race) blood flowed in his veins.

A member of the Coloured chamber of Parliament, Mr Desmond Lockey, said Dr Treurnicht should be reclassified as a Coloured, because research showed that one of his forefathers married an Indian slave and another had an illegitimate child by a Hottentot woman.

Dr Treurnicht responded to this claim by announcing that he had hired a genealogist to draw up his family tree, and he was "satisfied that up to the sixth generation my family have all been white". The racial mixing, however, is alleged to have occurred 10 generations ago.

On Wednesday, in by-elections in two rural Transvaal constituencies, Dr Treurnicht's Conservative Party (CP) will be defending seats which it wrested from President Botha's ruling National Party in the white general election last May, claiming that the Government was selling whites down the river.

The CP, which obtained 26 per cent of the vote in May

and became the official Opposition in the white House of Assembly in place of the liberal Progressive Federal Party, expects to increase its majorities substantially.

One of the main issues in campaigning has been the relationship between the CP and the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging, or Afrikaner Resistance Movement, whose cheering members filled the Skilpad (Tortoise) Hall in Pretoria on Saturday.

The AWB — the Afrikaans acronym by which the movement is known — favours the creation of a "people's state" made up of the old Boer republics of the Transvaal, the Orange Free State and northern Natal.

Blacks would be allowed in only to the extent that their labour was needed. Jews would be expelled.

Government-supporting newspapers have been running almost daily front-page reports on the links between the CP and the AWB. Dr Treurnicht has been forced to admit that at least four CP members of Parliament are also members of the AWB.

The emotional climax of Saturday's rally came when

Mr Manie Maritz, a former wrestler and a veteran of the pro-Nazi Ossewa Brandwag (Ox-Wagon Sentinel), a Second World War forerunner of the AWB, rode into the hall on a horse and burnt a flag of the outlawed African National Congress.

A forest of arms rose in Hitler salutes and there were thunderous chants of "AWB, AWB", letters which when bellowed from thousands of throats in their Afrikaans pronunciation — "Ah Vay Bay" — pack an alliterative punch that produces much the same mesmerizing sound as the "Sieg Heil" of Nazi rallies.

The bearded AWB leader, Mr Eugene Terreblanche, a former policeman with a gift for spellbinding oratory, declared to cheer: "We don't want war but everybody should know that the AWB is no Sunday school picnic... we will govern ourselves with our superior white genes."

He denounced the Government's plan to privatise state-run enterprises, many of which were set up after the Nationalists came to power in 1948 to provide protected employment for Afrikaners. "It shows the Government was 'bankrupt' and literally 'selling out'."

Later Mr Terreblanche, who was surrounded by black-and-white bodyguards carrying rubber truncheons and holstered pistols, led a march by about 600 of his followers to the Union Buildings, the seat of government administration on a hill above Pretoria, where they handed in a petition demanding their "people's state".



Mr Terreblanche, a uniformed armed bodyguard behind him, addressing a Pretoria meeting reminiscent of Hitler's rallies.

Angola statue's armour flawed

From Jan Raath, Tchamutete, southern Angola

The outstretched arms of a giant, concrete Christ on top of a hillside embrace the diminished glory of the town of Lubango — a pastoral Portugal sculpted out of a bush escarpment in south-east Angola.

The monument also houses a Soviet mobile missile-linked radar system to repel air strikes from South Africa. It failed on Thursday just before dawn, when a force of South African Impala jets flying low over dry riverbeds penetrated the radar system and reportedly bombed a South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) camp on the town's outskirts.

"It is the carelessness of our Army that troops in the back line think that those on the front will forewarn them," said Captain Banca Armado Fraternidade, the commander of the 35th Brigade of the Angolan Armed Forces (FAPLA), at a briefing here, 115 miles north of the Namibian border and 39 miles from the South African frontline.

The cost of that carelessness is not clear. Between February 18 and Thursday last week, South African jets broke through twice, according to official communiqués from the Angolan Ministry of Defence. A government official in Luanda said the jets had missed their mark, a camp of Namibian refugees.

But people in the town said 20 were killed in the first attack and an unspecified number in the second.

Jonas Savimba's Unita movement operating in Lubango.

But breaking through the radar system appears to be a rare event for the South Africans. Last Monday, said Captain Fraternidade, a flight of Angolan MiGs in a bombing raid on the South African lines were chased home by Mirages.

The radar system, coupled with the improved performance of the Angolan Air Force, appears to have brought the war to a stalemate.

"If used to be a tourist trip for them, to come up and attack and fly back again," said the captain, who like most senior Angolan officers is in his early thirties but is a combat veteran of about 15 years. "But now they are finding forces that can push them back."

The Angolan Air Force is estimated to have 80 to 100 combat aircraft, supplied by the Soviet Union.

Diplomatic sources say that roughly half of the pilots of the Angolan Air Force are Cubans, but that the proportion is diminishing as Angolan airmen gain more combat experience.

Curb on sensitive exports widened

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

Tough new controls on the export of advanced Western technology to the Soviet Union are to be announced here this week.

Topping the latest list of prohibited "strategic" products will be equipment used in building nuclear submarines, with particular emphasis on preventing the USSR from acquiring computerized systems for reducing propeller noise under water.

The extended embargo, issued by the Paris-based Coordinating Committee on Multilateral Export Controls (Cocomb), also seeks to block the transfer of sophisticated processes for making metal used in the US Stealth bomber virtually "invisible" to enemy radar.

According to an Agence France-Presse report yesterday, a wide range of advanced electronic equipment with possible military applications will appear on the list, together with systems utilizing industrial robots and other automated processes.

The urgent need to protect the West's nuclear submarine technology, markedly superior in key respects to that of the Soviet Union, has been the subject of long, occasionally heated, exchanges within Cocomb. At a special meeting of this habitually secretive organization in Versailles last month, US delegates made it abundantly clear to the 15 other member nations (all from Western Europe, with the exception of Japan) that there was growing pressure in Congress to crack down on foreign "high-tech pirates".

The possibility of US reprisals (probably sanctions) against foreign concerns violating the technology embargo was not ruled out.

Middle East mission

Shultz pursues a peace deal as more Arabs die

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

There were also incidents in Israel's so-called "security zone" in South Lebanon, where positions of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army were attacked.

Mr Shultz's attempts to end this violence continued on Saturday in Amman, where he was told the only way to reach a solution was through an international peace conference attended by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to bring about complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and the granting of legitimate rights to the Palestinians. These points are hotly opposed by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, and only partly accepted by Mr Peres.

The Jordanian position was spelt out in a statement read by Mr Taher al-Masri, the Foreign Minister, who obviously prepared the text before Mr Shultz arrived. The Secretary of State listened impassively and then said: "Obviously that is their point of view, but we do agree that the object here is to find our way to comprehensive peace."

Later in the day in Damascus, Mr Shultz was given a similar message in talks with both President Assad and Mr Farouk al-Shara, the Foreign Minister. He said later: "We expressed our opinion in an open and frank way. No agreement was reached."

In separate meetings yesterday morning with both Mr Shamir and Mr Peres, Mr Shultz gave a brief report of his talks before he set off for Cairo. The 10-member inner Cabinet was to meet later.

The lobbies supporting Mr Shamir and Mr Peres took to the streets of Jerusalem on Saturday evening. Several thousand supporters of Peace Now demonstrated outside the main synagogue waving placards reading "The conquered territories are conquering Israel" and "Speed up the peace process".

A smaller right-wing demonstration took place outside the Prime Minister's house where the most popular placard read: "Peace Now means war tomorrow."

LONDON: The focus of Mr Shultz's peace mission will switch here tomorrow when he holds talks with King Hussein of Jordan, who is in Britain on a private visit (Andrew McEwen writes).

The Secretary of State will then hold a joint meeting with the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary. Later Mrs Thatcher will dine with King Hussein.

Happy landing at last for a refusenik barmitzvah boy

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem

Jewish religious worship was not encouraged. Through the National Council for Soviet Jewry he found the Shapirons, whose family name was the same as his great-uncle. During the summer, she wrote to them in Leningrad but never received a reply. Only by chance did they make contact.

Ten days after Michael's barmitzvah on August 22, at which an empty place was set for Yisrael, the family flew to celebrate again with Mrs Mocatta's parents. Yisrael's own grandparents were asked to come, too. The day after they arrived, they chanced on a story about Naomi's letter to Mr Gorbachev in the Jerusalem Post, which incited a contact number in Leningrad. Mrs Mocatta rang it.

Mrs Mocatta began campaigning for the family's release. She encouraged them with long telephone calls and made sure the name was at the top of the list of refuseniks that Britain gave to the Soviet Union just before the summit.

On the day the summit started, The Times reported that the Shapirons' latest visa application had been met with official silence. A week later they were told they could go.

his grandparents were granted exit visas and left to set up home in Tel Aviv. His parents had their application to emigrate to Israel turned down.

Mr Lev Shapir had worked in the radio research department of a radio-electronics institute in Leningrad until 1970 and was caught in the "secrecy trap" because the authorities insisted he had seen state secrets.

After Mr Shapir was accused by name on television in 1984 of being a traitor and of being involved in black market dealings with goods smuggled in by Westerners, Yisrael was harassed at his school and labelled the "son of a spy".

Believing that the new glasnost image presented by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev might help, the Shapirons encouraged their daughter, Naomi, to appeal to the Soviet leader by letter last April.

The answer was a total silence. It was not long after, however, that Mrs Ilana Mocatta heard the story.

She wanted her son's barmitzvah in August to be different and meaningful, with a ceremony twinned with that of a boy in a country where

The two barmitzvah boys last night met for the first time at Ben Gurion airport — Michael from north London and Yisrael from Leningrad. Naomi, aged 9, kissed her grandparents for the first time. Mr Lev Shapir and his wife, Leah, realized an 11-year dream.

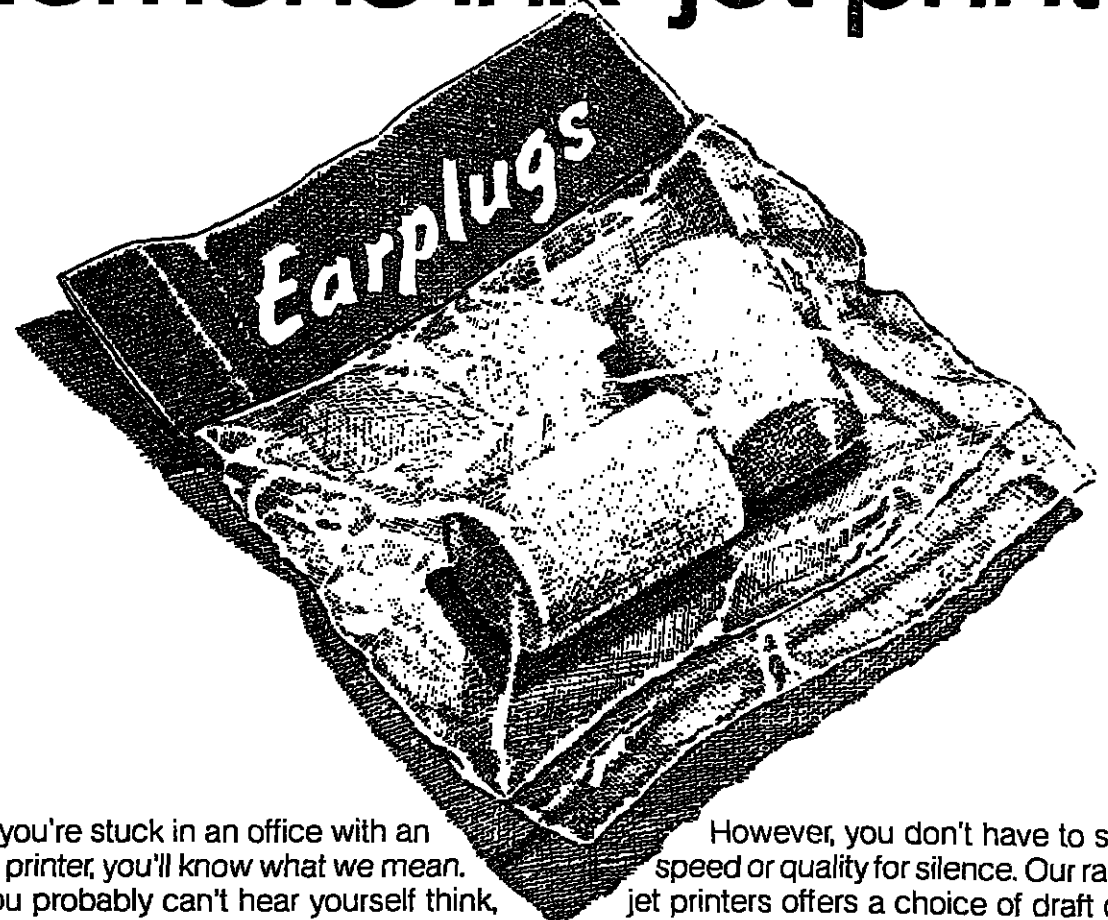
The latest family of Soviet Jewish refuseniks had reached Israel, thanks to a tireless campaign by a north London family and an article in The Times before last December's Washington summit.

When he was allowed to leave, Mr Shapir said: "It is not only a coincidence but even a miracle." Three days later, his son celebrated his barmitzvah knowing he would be in Israel within weeks. Mr Shapir said "there is no doubt the article actually did it".

The family's release, however, comes when Soviet Jewish activists here are warning that last year's comparative flood of 8,000 exit visas is showing signs of slowing to a trickle as new regulations limiting emigration to those immediate families of those living abroad come into effect. Yisrael was just two when

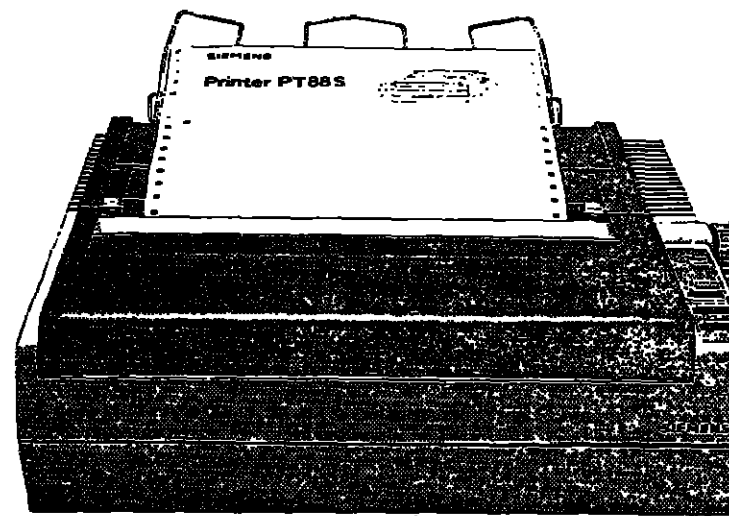
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Nato seeks new frontline nuclear missile

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

As Nato leaders prepare to meet in Brussels this week for a summit on the way ahead for alliance arms control strategy, it has emerged that formal exchanges have now been conducted between Washington and European governments over the choice of a new nuclear short-range tactical missile that could be deployed in the so-called "central front" by the mid-1990s.

The short-range missile issue will be one of the important topics for discussion at the summit. West Germany is opposed to the Nato plan for modernizing the existing missile system, the Lance weapon with a range of 72 miles, deployed with five Nato countries in Europe. Bonn wants to include these battlefield missiles in arms control talks with the Soviet Union.

According to senior diplomatic sources, the issue of modernization, regarded by Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan as crucial, will be referred to in carefully drafted sentences in the summit communiqué on Thursday to avoid any admission of a split in Nato. Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany has won agreement from President Reagan, after his meeting in Washington last week, to hold off on nuclear modernization.

But, according to sources in Washington, secret discussions have been going on about the preferred choice of a new missile system.

The Americans are working

on several options. The most likely Lance replacement is now seen to be a nuclear-capable version of the American Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS), according to the Washington sources.

Development is already well under way for a conventional ATACMS for the US Army. Until recently the Pentagon was prevented from studying a nuclear version because of an amendment drawn up by Senator Edward Kennedy and Senator Sam Nunn in 1985. But this ban has now been lifted by the US Senate and the Pentagon budget for the next financial year, approved more than a week ago, contains expenditure of \$15 million (£9.4 million) for a study on a nuclear tactical missile system.

If the Senate approves development of the system, it would have a range of about 250 miles and be launched (like the conventional ATACMS) from the existing Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS). The MLRS has already been ordered for the British Army for launching conventional high-explosive rockets. The MLRS would have to be converted to fire nuclear missiles. At present it fires two "six packs" of rockets.

The nuclear version, the sources said, would have a single launch pack, because the missile would be much bigger and would have a greater range.



Favourite in modernization stakes: This Multiple Launch Rocket System can be converted for short-range nuclear missiles.

The nuclear ATACMS has become the preferred option because development of the conventional version for the US Army has been going on for two years and will be "in the field" in the early 1990s. With Britain, France, West Germany and possibly The Netherlands already planning to buy the MLRS, it could be offered to the alliance as a

relatively cheap Lance replacement. The overall short-range tactical missile modernization programme is referred to as the Lance follow-on. But the Washington sources said that one of the other options, an update of the existing Lance missile, was not practical. It is understood that at the

last Nato defence ministers' Nuclear Planning Group meeting in Monterey, California, last November, it was suggested that an improved Lance should be selected in preference to a new system. But the Washington sources said yesterday: "We've just completed a service life extension programme for Lance which will take it through to

the mid-1990s. But it would be very expensive to develop an updated version with the sort of extended range that we need. For a start, the Lance production line doesn't exist any more." The sources added that an increase in range was vital because at present the Soviet forces "tend to sit outside the range of the existing Lance".

Alliance forced to outflank public's mood

Nato leaders will be meeting in Brussels this week in an atmosphere of some anxiety to deal with problems largely of their own creation.

There is concern that if the short-range nuclear weapons in West Germany are not modernized, Western Europe will be drifting towards demilitarization. But these missiles would not matter so much if the INF Treaty were not about to eliminate all land-based medium-range weapons.

There is concern that Western opinion may be becoming too euphoric about the Soviet Union. But that euphoria was encouraged earlier by the rapacious response to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev from Mrs Thatcher herself and even more from President Reagan.

But political leaders have to deal with situations as they now exist. So the critical question at this Nato summit will be how far it is prudent to defy this more optimistic trend in public opinion, especially in West Germany, in order to preserve the balance of power.

Two statements are likely to emerge from this meeting. One will be on the principles that should guide Nato in the conventional stability talks.

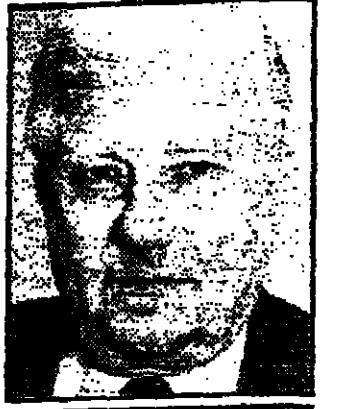
But more attention will focus on the other, more general statement of Nato strategy. It is this statement which will indicate how far the West Germans are being pressed by their allies to accept the modernization of the short-range nuclear missiles. The British, with support from the French, have been pushing not only for a firm declaration of principle, ideally, they would also like an agreed timetable for updating the Lance missile.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl has been resisting anything too explicit, partly from fear of West German public opinion and partly because his own coalition Government is divided. Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister from the Free Democratic Party, takes a much softer line towards the Soviet Union.

When Chancellor Kohl was in Washington recently, President Reagan clearly did not wish to press him too hard. So it seems to have been agreed that the principle of modernizing the short-range nuclear forces (SNF) would be accepted, that there would be no rush to negotiate on these weapons with the Soviet Union, but that no programme for updating them would be laid down now.

Kohl's coalition is divided on Russia

Indeed, it may be easier for Bonn to give its approval if it is seen to be under pressure from the other Nato members. It would be best if a timetable could be agreed this week. If that is impossible, it would be unwise to delay for long. Once these missiles become obsolete, it will be argued that to update them would be destabilizing.



Geoffrey Smith

This may seem rather cautious, but it was much preferred by the Americans to what Herr Genscher had been proposing in Washington a fortnight before. He had been willing to accept modernization in principle, but wanted at the same time to go ahead with negotiations on SNF.

That would all too probably have led to a third zero-zero agreement, leaving Western Europe more vulnerable to the preponderant Soviet conventional strength.

But there remains the delicate question of how best to persuade the West Germans to accept modernization when so many of them seem to fear that

UK wants Lance update timetable

the deployment of these weapons on their soil threatens a nuclear conflict confined to the two Germans.

This week's statement will presumably reiterate the principle that the West's defences, conventional and nuclear, must be kept up-to-date and effective. Whether it will relate that principle explicitly to SNF is doubtful, and at the moment it seems still more unlikely that any programme for modernization will be mentioned.

The case for moving cautiously is that this will allow Chancellor Kohl to accept modernization in due course with the least public drama and, therefore, the least political embarrassment at home. The danger is that, unless the allies are seen to keep up the pressure, a decision may be postponed indefinitely.

Indeed, it may be easier for Bonn to give its approval if it is seen to be under pressure from the other Nato members.

It would be best if a timetable could be agreed this week. If that is impossible, it would be unwise to delay for long. Once these missiles become obsolete, it will be argued that to update them would be destabilizing.

India to update its arms technology

Delhi (AFP) — Indian experts have prepared a 10-year defence project to upgrade domestic warfare technology by the year 2000, the Press Trust of India said yesterday.

The plan, prepared by the Defence Ministry's Armament Research Development Establishment, gave immediate priority to warhead and missile propulsion technology, an ARDE spokesman said. The plan has yet to get government approval.

Trade boost

Bangkok (AFP) — Thailand is to reopen four checkpoints on its north-eastern border with Laos to boost small-scale local trade, an official said.

Doctors held

Marseille (AFP) — Two French doctors are being held here accused of a multi-million-franc insurance fraud involving false medical certificates.

Cliff tragedy

Fez, Morocco (AFP) — Rescue workers pulled the bodies of 32 people from the remains of a cliff which collapsed on a shantytown slum here.

Out of gas

Sydney — Petrol stations here are expected to run dry by Wednesday after talks to halt a strike by tanker drivers failed.

March deaths

Dhaka (Reuters) — Police killed three people when they opened fire on a political protest march here yesterday, opposition parties said.

Leading article, page 11

Sikh killed

Chandigarh, India (Reuters) — A Sikh militant suspected of killing the former Indian Army chief, General Arun Vaidya, in August was shot dead by police in a gunfight.

New paper

Istanbul (AP) — Turkey's first English-language weekly newspaper, *Hurriyet-Detay* Turkey, was published yesterday.

Bishop dies

Peking (Reuters) — Louis Zhang Jiashu, the Bishop of Shanghai, has died, aged 96.

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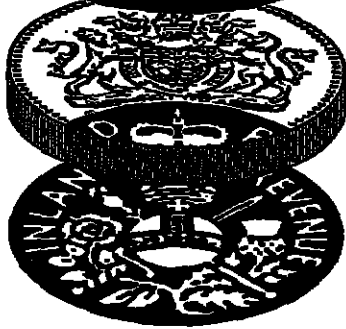
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Shifting the burden of proof

THE HIDDEN POWERS OF THE TAXMAN



There was a time when taxpayers were given the benefit of the doubt, presumed innocent until proven guilty. But there is evidence that this is changing. In an introduction to a four-part series on the Inland Revenue's controversial new hard line, David Brewerton examines

the case of a student and her father who came under suspicion after making a mistake on a claim

Twenty months ago, the Inland Revenue published a 'Taxpayers' Charter. One of the tenets of the charter was stated as follows: "You will be presumed to have dealt with your tax affairs honestly, unless there is reason to believe otherwise."

The tax inspector who dealt with the affairs of Carolyn Gunton, an 18-year-old student at Birmingham University, appears to have paid little attention to the charter. Because of a simple mistake, Miss Gunton joined the growing number of people whose brush with the tax inspector made her feel that she had been judged guilty unless she could prove her innocence.

It appears that, unknown to her, she had become caught up in one of the Inland Revenue's special operations. It was a similar operation to the one which eventually led the jockey Lester Piggott to prison, but last summer the Inland Revenue was looking at deeds of covenant, a tax-saving device which can be used by a parent or grandparent to finance a student's university years.

The "crime" of Carolyn Gunton, or more particularly of her father, who is a distinguished university professor and theologian, was to make a simple mistake at the wrong time.

The brush with the taxman occurred after Miss Gunton

submitted a claim for the repayment of tax which was due under a deed of covenant from her father. Instead of the expected cheque for the reclaimed tax, she received a letter from an Inspector of Taxes in Bootle, Merseyside, hundreds of miles from her home and her local tax office in Essex.

The letter began ominously: "Your file has recently been passed..." - her file? Only 18, and already the Inland Revenue have a file? "...in connection with a claim for repayment recently submitted by yourself following the execution of a deed of covenant in your favour by your father."

Its third sentence began: "In the case of Clark v Clark [4 ATC 240], it was decided..." Miss Gunton knew nothing about Clark v Clark, but it did suggest somebody had ended up in court for claiming what she had claimed.

The letter stated that before she could get her repayment, she had to provide evidence that what she said her father had paid under the deed of covenant had actually been handed over. "Such evidence should take the form for example of your bank statements," the inspector went on to suggest, "or building society pass book into which the covenanted sum was deposited. Would you at the same time ask your father to provide me with similar evidence, eg bank statement, and to indicate the

sums withdrawn which were used to finance the payments under the deed of covenant."

"Where it is not clear from the documentary evidence available that the sums received were paid on either due dates or in the amounts legally due under the terms of the covenant, please forward separate analysis of the sums actually paid by your father, together with the dates on which each sum was received."

Dr Colin Gunton says that the family immediately felt under suspicion. The demand for evidence suggested to him that, in the opinion of the tax inspector, neither he nor his daughter could be relied upon to tell the truth.

A Professor of the Chair of Christian Doctrine at King's College, London, and an assistant minister of the United Reformed Church, Dr Gunton feels he is unlikely to be singled out as the type most likely to fiddle his taxes. He did make a simple mistake in filling in the forms, stating an amount gross which should have been stated net. "When articulate, well-educated people like us can feel threatened because of a simple misunderstanding, I think it shows the system is too heavy handed," he says.

According to Miss Gunton, her



Still smarting from a brush with the Inland Revenue: Carolyn Gunton, who along with her father, faced some hard questioning

father "was very upset about it. I had filled in the bit of the form where I could nominate him to receive the tax back, because he'd already paid all the money over to me. They wanted to know why I'd done it that way."

The Inspector of Taxes, in the letter, demanded to know "your reasons for this nomination" and also asked Miss Gunton to "confirm that any sums will be used solely for your benefit". If the Gunton family came up with the evidence, then the inspectors would allow the repayment "purely by concession".

The family did provide all the evidence that was required to establish that they had been innocent of the tax fraud of which they felt, by implication, they had been accused.

"I wrote to complain about the

manner in which the claim had been handled," Dr Gunton says, "and I did get a letter back which maintained that I had not been under suspicion. But the clear implication all the way through was that we were trying to fiddle them, which is ridiculous."

The incident coincided with a clampdown on deeds of covenant last year, when two accountants, Danby Bloch and Raymond Godfrey, writing in *The Times*, reported that "the enthusiastic questioning and delving by tax offices around the country suggests strongly that the Revenue has started a serious campaign".

Over recent years, campaigns have been mounted against television presenters, against building sub-contractors, against foreign entertainers and sportsmen visit-

ing this country, and other groups. The campaigns are mounted by the Special Investigations section. When such a campaign gets under way, the innocent are as likely to be caught up and questioned as the guilty. The problem is, as two leading accountants from Arthur Young recently pointed out, faced with the Inland Revenue's "robust spirit of enquiry" the businessman and the private individual alike have every reason to feel uneasy.

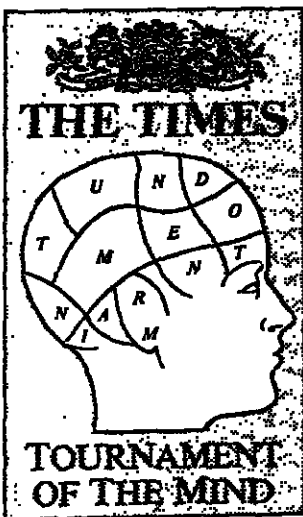
"The arrival of the Inland Revenue inspectors - and the unspoken assumption of his [the taxpayer's] guilt - is likely to have an acutely demoralizing effect." The effect is echoed by the Gunton family, who still, six months later, smart at the heavy hand of the Inland Revenue and feel that their honesty had been questioned.

There is no doubt that abuses under deeds of covenant do take place. Dr Gunton points out, though, that had he been setting out to defraud the Inland Revenue, he would hardly have begun by filling in the forms incorrectly

TOMORROW

PART ONE:
How the accountants fear the new zealous and aggressive taxman

Tournament of the Mind



Week Two,
and the questions
are becoming more difficult

- Week Two of *The Times* Tournament of the Mind begins today with Round Six.
- The top 100 individual scorers after 20 rounds will compete in the tournament final for the £5,000 first prize along with the top 10

school teams, who can win an IBM Personal System/2 computer. Schools can enter as many teams, of up to 10 members, as they like.

● As the tournament continues, the questions, set by Mensa become increasingly difficult. But don't worry if you cannot answer them all. Remember, it is the readers with the top 100 scores out of a possible 1,000 points who will be invited to take part in the finals.

● Be sure to take *The Times* every day as the questions will not be repeated.

ROUND SIX - QUESTIONS

Tackle all the questions - remember it is the top scores that count

1 LOGIC Score 3

A two-storey maisonette has eight rooms, four on each floor. The dining room is below a bedroom. The bathroom is above the garage and to the immediate right of a bedroom. The lounge is to the left of which is on the first floor. One of the bedrooms is in the top left corner of the house, above the lounge, and the bedroom is three rooms away from it. The kitchen is on the ground floor. The garage counts as one room. There is only one room next to the garage, which room is it?

2 VERBAL Score 3

Which word can be placed before the following words to create four new words?
BACK DOWN STAND SHAW

3 MATHEMATICS Score 4

A tramp collects cigar ends from which he makes full cigars. He has amassed 800 ends. He knows that he can make one full cigar from 16 ends. How many full cigars can he make and smoke altogether?

4 MISCELLANEOUS Score 4

What should replace the question mark in the following?
A M E I
O C ? G

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE Score 1 each

- 1 Who gave Perseus the shield which he used to slay the Gorgon, Medusa?
- 2 Which animal is associated with the Egyptian god Anubis?
- 3 From which country do the All Blacks Rugby team come?
- 4 In which town was Adolf Hitler born?
- 5 For what element is Ag the chemical symbol?



ROUND SIX - ANSWERS
Cut out your answers and keep this coupon until Round 20. Answers will be accepted only on coupons printed in *The Times*

PUZZLES
Answer 1 _____ Answer 2 _____
Answer 3 _____ Answer 4 _____
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE
Answer 1 _____
Answer 2 _____
Answer 3 _____
Answer 4 _____
Answer 5 _____
NAME _____

Victoria finds her station

A five-year search for Her Majesty, in 23 countries, is over. It ended behind a schoolyard in the Irish Republic, where she was found still seated on her throne. The discovery marked the end of a quest by an Australian man with a penchant for Victoriana.

Neil Glasser, aged 69, was given the task of finding a statue of her to grace the front of one of Sydney's best-known landmarks, the newly restored Queen Victoria Building.

His hunt began in 1983 when he asked the then Premier of New South Wales, Neville Wran, if he could have the one in nearby Queen Street. The Premier refused, and Glasser was forced to cast his net wider. A study of newsreels and old books revealed a worldwide total of 126 "Queen Victorias". He visited them all, checking their condition before pleading with officials to part with them.

In South Yemen he found a suitable statue behind the old British Army barracks. "But the people in charge wanted to keep it as a reminder of British rule." Then - "just when I was at my lowest ebb" - came a phone call from someone who remembered seeing a statue of Victoria in southern Ireland 40 years earlier.

Five days later, Glasser arrived in the market town of Daingean, about 60 miles west of Dublin, in County Offaly. "When I saw the statue, I knew my search was over. It was the most majestic statue of Queen Victoria I'd seen."

Unfortunately, on that occasion, Glasser had to return to Sydney empty-handed after townspeople complained that their heritage was being sold. But after renewed efforts, permission was granted for the statue to be given as a gesture of friendship and goodwill.

Frightened of losing his prize, Glasser accompanied it by low-loader to Dublin and then by container ship to Australia. It was restored, then lowered on to its new resting place just before Christmas. For Glasser, who started his working life as a messenger boy in the Queen Victoria Buildings 55 years ago, it represents the fulfilment of a dream.

Now, from his office window four floors up, he can survey Her Majesty with a suitably respectful air. "I wave to her, and she seems to wave back with her sceptre." Both appear to be amused.

Tom Carver

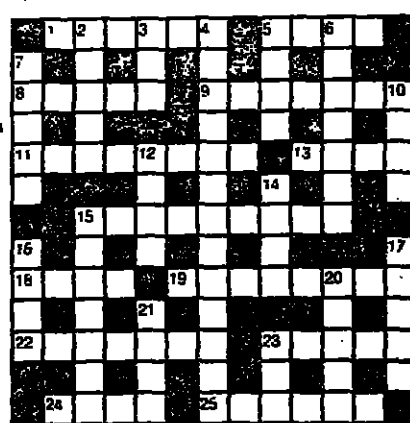
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An Australian who searched the globe in vain for a statue of Queen Victoria found the object of his desire behind an Irish schoolyard

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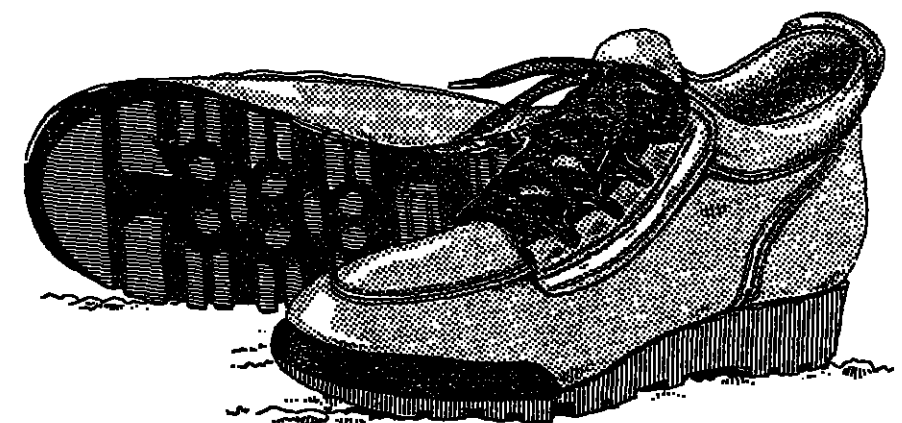
- ACROSS
1 Reprieved (6)
5 Hounds group (4)
8 Oak seed (5)
9 Hide (7)
11 Scottish Pres. Church founder (4,4)
13 Travel (4)
15 Athlete's overalls (9)
18 Den (4)
19 With loud deep sound (8)
22 Judea Galilee district (7)
23 Bremerhaven river (5)
24 (4)
25 Stretch (6)

- DOWN
2 Diddy (5)
3 Baiting score (3)
4 Early TV hospital series (6,7)
6 Small dainties (4)
7 Merciful (7)
8 Smoking cannabis (5)



- 10 Gentlewoman (4)
12 Mongol ruler (4)
14 Set fire to (4)
15 Clipped back (7)
16 Donations to poor (4)
17 Begin (5)
20 Bremerhaven industrial centre (5)
21 Stuff (4)
23 Practical intelligence (3)

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TIMES DIARY

CLEMENT
FREUD

One effect of bucket-shop advertisements extolling flights to Faro, Verona and Alicante "from £39 return" is the general air of suspicion that pertains among the passengers of charter-flights who feel that the man in the next seat may be reaching his destination for a fraction of the cost of their own ticket. While research shows that the advertised price tends to be an exclusive-of-airport-taxes quote for a flight that left yesterday, it is true that one 737 plane winging its way to the sun is quite likely to have no two passengers paying the same price.

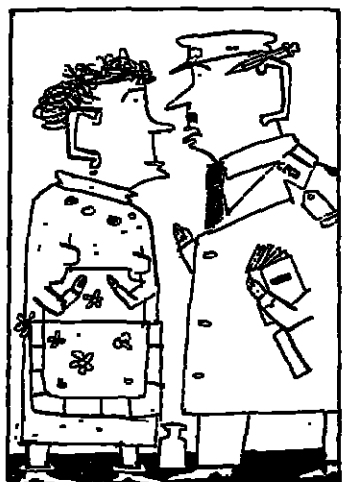
Now there is a return flight to the Algarve, £25 all in, no extras, which leaves on Fridays and comes back on Sundays: the only snag is that you have to subject yourself to a three-and-a-half hours sales pitch by a time-share company. Time-share is not turning out to be the bonanza it once promised to be. Purchasers are attempting, without significant success, to unload the properties they bought three years ago and operators are disappearing from sight or filing for bankruptcy. The very term "time-share" now has about it the ring associated with "fringe-bank" in the early 1970s. There is a thin grey line between aggressive selling and fraud — as a number of operators have discovered — many forgetting that there are only 52 weeks in a year. There can currently be found spending the first three weeks of July in Warmwood Scrubs... also the rest of the year.

Sunday brunch is a transatlantic meal that is becoming ever more popular in London, claimed a handout from a restaurant called Windy City. Odd thing that, the contraction of breakfast and lunch has caught on while no one speaks of tinner or dupper. We went to see the extent of British adhesion to this moveable feast: Windy City lurks north of Harrods, a flashing electric sign urges you to HOLD ON TO YOUR HAT, and for £6.95 you get corned-beef hash or an Egg Benedict with hot bread, fruit loaf and strawberry butter. We were served by a waiter from Michigan, next to us sat a family from Toronto, behind a lady read *The Boston Globe*, and the manageress who came and asked whether "youse folks doin' alright?" wasn't from SW3 either. Perhaps Richoux's on 6th Avenue New York is claiming gastro-conversions also; most of us go there to meet our fellow Brits.

A really well-worded ad can get up to 100 replies in the first week, said the lady who runs *Time Out* magazine's lonely hearts column. Women — especially attractive, young, straight women — get most replies but just about everybody who puts an ad in the lonelies gets some response. Although the minimum number of words she accepts is 10 (the box number counts as two) she says she could not really recommend very short messages — like that of the man who came into the office to put "Long distance lorry driver needs new girl friend" — she did notice that he got a couple of envelopes addressed to his box number. It costs £1 a word and *Time Out* considers itself market leader in the metropolitan area. *Private Eye*, £1 a word, £5 for the box number, is more selective and up-market, also country-wide. Under the heading "Eye Love" the current edition has 67 messages for heterosexual partners, among which "Cheated husband seeks Cheated wife for mutual revenge" might be the most pertinent use of the minimum wordage. I wanted to know if the revenge would be wreaked in his place or hers.

There seem more tall than short lonelies, with "Affectionate adventurous graduate 27, 6' 11", mature with puppyish lapses, seeks cuddly lady E. Midlands/London" taking pride of place. I guess if they made a typographical error about his height, he can have a free insertion next week. Searching around for the graduate's soul-mate, I found "Anybody out there who can handle a twice divorced 850cc Suzuki-riding woman with wicked sense of humour, 50 years of age going on 30?" My "lonelies" consultant said that the ad "Shy, 19-year-old, possibly lesbian, country girl, needs awakening", steadily gets the heaviest load of responses.

BARRY FANTONI



'CEGB missus, I've come to read your share portfolio'

In Tokyo, Yellow Pages are called Town Pages, though the colour and format is very similar to ours. Recent research by a British marketing company has shown two reasons for their popularity: firstly the deep affection in which NTT (the Nippon version of British Telecom) is held by the people of Japan, who use phones incessantly at street corners, cafes, hotels, in parks, cinema foyers and swimming-pool changing rooms, so that nation can say *moshi moshi* (hello) to nation. Secondly, because they are widely used as supports, to raise the height of a telephone, as drip mat for a bottle of Suntory whisky, and especially as cushions for children when sitting at low Japanese dinner tables.

In their television commercials, NTT's answer to Maureen Lipman's brilliant Telecom series is to depict a charismatic Japanese film star in New York consulting the Town Pages to locate a bicycle hire company in order to run down people on the sidewalks of Manhattan; on Japanese pavements wheels have the right of way over feet, as many visitors have learnt to their cost.

At first sight the Government's proposal to split up the Central Electricity Generating Board into only two generating companies seems merely to replace a monopoly with a duopoly, which will prefer to collude rather than compete. Both will be giants. "Big G", formed from 70 per cent of the CEGB's existing capacity, including all of its nuclear plant and some of its oil and coal capacity, will have as much plant as Tokyo Electric, the largest private power company in the world. "Little G", with the remaining 30 per cent of the CEGB's present capacity, will still be comparable with the largest private electric company in the United States.

But of equal significance to the organizational restructuring set out in last week's White Paper is the transfer from the CEGB to the 12 area distribution companies of the "obligation to supply". They will jointly own the national grid and the dispatch control, and have the responsibility for ensuring that there is enough generation capacity available in the country.

The current arrangement gives the CEGB responsibility for de-

Alex Henney explains how competition will flourish in electricity

At last, a real power shift

iding how much and what type of generating plant to build, and the distribution companies have to pay for it. The situation is as though Unilever could tell Tesco what to stock and how much to pay for the goods. The change reflects a fundamental shift in the balance of power, putting the responsibility for serving the customer where it should be, with the retailer, and opening the way for competition.

The White Paper envisages major customers buying competitively from distribution companies, from the generating Big G and Little G, from the two companies that are likely to be created from the boards in Scotland, and from new independent generators. It also promises heavy regulation to ensure that the distribution companies have a financial incentive

to buy power competitively and the generators have an incentive to run their sets efficiently.

The distribution companies will contract for power station capacity on the basis of competitive tenders. If US experience is any guide, the tenders will range from small to large sets of diverse technologies, which will make collusion very difficult.

The White Paper clearly states that in future generating companies will be free to purchase coal and other fuels from the most competitive sources. This spells trouble for British Coal, whose average delivered price of £45 a tonne is about two-thirds higher than the cost of imported coal and oil bought on the spot market. It will have to cut its costs by a quarter, if not more, to remain competitive.

Privatization also spells trou-

ble for nuclear power. We need not worry on safety grounds about privatizing the CEGB's nuclear power stations, provided their operations and maintenance costs are regulated on a cost-plus basis and Big G has no incentive to scrimp. More than half of the reactors in the West are privately owned; as shown by the accidents and leaks at Windscale, Sellafield, Chernobyl, the Tennessee Valley Authority's plant at Browns Ferry and France's Superphenix, public ownership is no guarantee of safer operations.

Selling the CEGB's existing reactors presents some tricky but solvable financial problems, and will for the first time show clearly in public what a lot of money we have wasted on building nuclear plant. The board's eight Magnox reactors

are old, somewhat variable in output, increasingly expensive to run, and will have to be decommissioned for an unknown cost in the not too distant future.

Only one-and-a-half of the CEGB's five advanced gas cooled reactors (AGRs) have been commissioned. Sizewell B will be a big cash drain while it is being constructed, and will then follow the tradition of producing expensive power. Privatizing the reactors will provide Sid with a unique punt on a portfolio of old secondhand reactors resembling Morris Minors, and some new and unreliable reactors which fortunately have no motorized equivalent.

The Government appears to be cleverly finessing the future of nuclear power building. Big G will not have a duty to build nuclear stations, but the dis-

tribution companies will have an obligation to buy a certain proportion of their power from non-fossil fuel sources. Unless the proportion is put at much above 20 per cent then for a decade or so it will be possible to meet the requirement for nuclear power by commissioning the AGRs and importing from Scotland and France.

The distribution companies will perform largely as monopolies because smaller customers will not find it worthwhile shopping around. The Government has learnt from the unpopular consequences of the feeble powers available to the regulators of British Telecom and British Gas, and is promising much more effective regulation to protect electricity customers.

If the regulatory regime lives up to the promises of both promoting competition and protecting customers, in a decade we should have one of the most efficient, secure and flexible electric systems in the world.

The author was chairman of the Centre for Policy Studies' working group on electricity, and wrote *Private Power*.

Bernard Levin

An academic fascist's nest

The affairs of Wolverhampton Polytechnic rarely figure on the agendas of those who shape the world. Neither President Reagan nor Mr Gorbachov stays awake for worrying about what the students of that institution are up to, and even Mrs Thatcher does not demand an hourly update of the situation on the campus. Oddly enough, though, she might do well to take a look at what has just happened there, and odder still, so might the rest of us.

The Polytechnic Conservative Students' Association invited a diplomat from the South African Embassy to explain and defend his country's policies; it was to be mainly a question and answer session, and — though this is not strictly relevant — the questioning was going to be forthright, particularly since the theme of the speaker's address was "Dis-mantling apartheid", an oxymoron which the Conservative students apparently regard with considerable scepticism.

The visitor from the Outer Space of South Africa was the Embassy's First Secretary, Mr Mullinder. Since, it seems, the Conservative students of Wolverhampton Polytechnic, young though they must be, were not born yesterday, they assumed that a certain amount of hostility would be displayed, towards the visit itself as well as its subject matter; they therefore took appropriate precautions. Truth to tell, they had no choice in the matter for since last year, when Section 43 of the Education Act 1986 came into force, there has been a statutory duty on the authorities of all places of higher education to ensure that meetings may be held in peace, whatever their subject, provided they are themselves lawful. The key paragraph is a truly noble statement of a noble aim:

Every individual and body of persons concerned in the government of any establishment to which this section applies shall take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that freedom of speech within the law is secured for members, students and em-

ployees of the establishment and for visiting speakers. The duty imposed... includes (in particular) the duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the use of any premises of the establishment is not denied to any individual or body of persons on any ground connected with the beliefs or views of that individual or of any member of that body, or the policy or objectives of that body.

It should be remembered that when the "Freedom of speech clause", as it was colloquially known, was added to the Bill in the House of Lords, there was a mighty squalling on the part of university authorities, deploring the outrageous imposition on them of a commitment to free speech. They insisted that they needed no such law to remind them of their duties, but since the clause had been added precisely because most university authorities had done nothing at all to ensure that lawful meetings and speeches might be held and given on their premises, their protests were rightly ignored, and the principle of free speech in higher educational establishments is now the law.

From the care which the authorities at Wolverhampton Poly took to comply with the law for the forthcoming address by the Great Satan, I rather think that they were not among those who squealed for immunity from free speech. Indeed, a long discussion with the Director, Mr Harrison, convinced me that he would be in favour of free speech even if the law did not oblige him to be. His office, then, consulted closely with the Conservative students' body as to the precautions to be taken.

Agreement was reached on stewarding inside and outside the meeting (six student stewards inside, six college employees outside), on the need to keep the time and place of the meeting secret (stop a moment and contemplate what that implies), on a ticket-only rule. As far as my inquiries go, nobody suggested having ambulances standing by, though it is clear that from now on it might be a sensible extra precaution.



For, of course, the poly authorities and students alike had underestimated the terror which seizes the fascist left whenever any thought that they do not themselves already hold is due to be discussed, and the lengths to which they will go to ensure that no such thoughts shall be discussed at all. Hear now what happened when Mr Mullinder arrived, as reported in the local newspaper, *The Wolverhampton Express and Star*.

About 100 screaming students had burst in, springing in his face and hurling abuse. They chanted anti-apartheid slogans as Mr Mullinder was ushered out of a lecture room by the organizers. Minutes earlier, fights erupted outside the room, where Mr Mullinder was due to talk... One of the stewards appointed by the organizers... was kicked and

punched to the ground. A series of scuffles also broke out in a corridor... The protesters were driven back by stewards and the private meeting began as planned. But within seconds it was brought to a halt as a large group of students burst in through a side door. They rushed straight towards Mr Mullinder, who was on the stage, and began hurling abuse. He was also spat at by a woman demonstrator... He was pushed through the throng and led away to safety.

From my own inquiries, I am satisfied that that account is not exaggerated. So what happens now? Evidence is being sought of those responsible for criminal assault and/or criminal damage, but of course charges will depend on definite identification; the same naturally applies to possible disciplinary proceedings. But I am not primarily con-

cerned with the punishment of those who deserve it; there is a larger question to be addressed.

Clearly, the precautions taken in advance of the meeting at Wolverhampton Poly were inadequate. But short of calling in the Army, it is hard to see what more could have been reasonably done. The law now guarantees free speech on the campus; the fascist left, however, is not interested in the law. They are determined that those who take a political view contrary to their own will not be heard, and since physical violence is obviously the most effective way to prevent the operation of free speech, sufficient physical violence will be employed. Moreover, the fascist left are not above (beneath?) borrowing from the Nazi right. One of their tricks was to beat up Jews and then prosecute their

victims for causing an affray; the mobsters of Wolverhampton Poly have now not only suspended the student Conservative Association from all facilities, they have suspended all its members from the Students' Union, and have announced that they are going to investigate the possibility of having them expelled from their houses.

It can be reasonably argued that although these fascistisms would like nothing better, when they grow up, than to be full-fledged fascists, Britain is most unlikely to accommodate them by turning itself into a totalitarian state. But although these nasty little creatures are not going to take over the country, they actually have taken over the campus of Wolverhampton Poly, and I am unable to believe that that is the only place in which such things happen — or, worse, do not happen because there is nobody to dare the fascists' wrath by inviting a speaker whose opinions they fear. One of the curious things about the "free speech" clause in the legislation is that there seems to be no means of enforcement of the duty and no penalty for a breach of it. There is a further education Bill going through Parliament at present; no doubt Mr Baker has his hands full. But one addition seems urgently necessary, viz., a clause making the interference with free speech in institutions of higher learning itself an offence. For however fine the instruction, and however penetrating the research, and however devoted the teachers, and however committed all those charged with the running of the institution, a university or polytechnic or college in which people may not speak their minds within the law is much worse than useless; it is dangerous. At any rate, it is dangerous if what the students learn there is that those with the loudest voices, and the biggest fists, and the heaviest boots, and the largest numbers, and the profoundest fear of views they do not share, are the only ones who may practise free speech.

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Commentary • JOHN BIFFEN

Baker's good Bill

The universities have successfully lobbied for changes in the Education Reform Bill. Kenneth Baker has announced that he will not seek control over individual allocations made by the University Funding Council. He will also accept advice from the University Funding Council on the financial needs of higher education before joining annual battle with the Treasury.

Arguably these amendments are not strictly necessary, and that makes Baker's decision all the more welcome. He is concerned that the Bill should proceed with the utmost goodwill. He knows that gestures of conciliation are essential for a successful Tory social policy.

The incident, then, offers the opportunity to assess the measure and the man, since both will feature in Tory prospects.

The Bill has been selected, ahead of the NHS, as the first priority in a social policy that must necessarily partner the Government's market economy plans. It will reach the statute book later this year, and its impact will be increasingly apparent. It is a measure whose significance goes well beyond the current session of Parliament and is a reminder of the Conservative pioneering role in the development of state education.

thanks to patient negotiation, put at rest the long-standing unease over education that had existed between church and state. It also provided secondary education for all and the basis for an expansion in further education. Butler provided the Conservative Party with its credentials for the postwar debates on social policy. Aneurin Bevan, with the NHS, did likewise for the Labour Party. Both men did service to public policy.

The Education Reform Bill, therefore, has daunting political antecedents. It aims to match that challenge, seeking to improve standards with a national curriculum of subjects to be taught in maintained schools. It seeks to give the schools an enhanced role through measures designed to give more recruitment and financial responsibilities to governors. Finally, there is the conditional provision whereby maintained schools can remain state-financed but opt out of the local education authority structure. As with the Butler Act, many of these proposals have broad political assent. "Opting out", however, has released a torrent of hostility and suspicion. But it is not an inherently centralist proposal. A school which decides to "opt out" will not have become the property of Whitehall merely because it no longer receives its public financing through the county educational authority.

Kenneth Baker will relish an argument that enables him to be the champion of a school system where parents, teachers and governors have rather more to say about the prospects of a community's children. More diversity in the organization of state education can be cham-

pioned on grounds of freedom. It can also be championed upon grounds of competition and the beneficial impact upon standards. It is quite certain that Kenneth Baker will welcome the arguments on both grounds and that he will put his case with courtesy and persuasiveness.

This characteristic links the man and the measure. Kenneth Baker has the enviable political skill of seeming enthused by his subject. The Labour Party may believe that the Bill is dangerous centralizing legislation, awarding far too many powers to the Secretary of State. T.E. Uley has used these columns to argue likewise. They cannot, however, credibly portray the amiable Kenneth Baker as a sinister arch-plotter determined that all the teaching reins should be held in Whitehall.

Second, it is quite impossible to pin upon the Education Secretary the charge that he is promoting a policy that favours privilege. Of course, it favours standards and measured achievement; the Bill, however, is not socially divisive. It is an open attempt to improve the standards of state education. It seeks to provide a benefit for the many. It is a natural commitment for Kenneth Baker. He should not speak of alleviating the problems of state education by encouraging the growth of the private schools.

Kenneth Baker would be embarrassed by comparison with his eminent predecessors, Balfour and Butler. None the less, he is making a substantial contribution to the Government's fortunes. He handles educational policy with sensitivity and style. One-Nation Toryism is safe in his hands.

SCIENCE REPORT

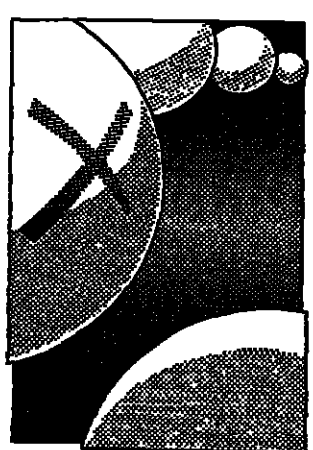
Super-vaccines

A group of British immunologists reports a significant step towards the manipulation of the human immune system, which protects the body from infectious disease. By showing that a small modification of a protein fragment from an influenza virus can increase a laboratory measure of immune effectiveness 1,000-fold, the group has raised the possibility of making more effective vaccines. An account of the work appears in the latest issue of the *US Journal Cell*.

The prize of being able to manipulate immunity would be great. Apart from defence against infection, the immune system controls rejection of skin-grafts and organ transplants, and plays an unknown part in the control of cancer. But only in the past three years has system offered the prospect of a rational rather than an empirical approach.

The research, springing from new understanding of what happens when a virus stimulates an immune response, has attracted commercial attention and led to the formation of several small speculative companies. The work has been done by Dr Helen Bodmer and colleagues in the laboratory of Dr Brigitte Askonas at the National Institute for Medical Research in Mill Hill and by Dr Jonathan Rothbard at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund Laboratories, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London.

Because viruses multiply inside cells, one of the pri-



Paul Bryant

incipal means by which the body rids itself of viral infections is by killing the infected cells through the use of white blood-cells called cytotoxic cells. It has now been learnt that other cells to kill because of fragments of viral material on their surfaces.

Since the 1970s, it has also been learnt that materials called transplantation antigens, also in the bloodstream and which cause the rejection of dissimilar tissues in transplant operations, also play a vital role in preventing virus infection. These antigens are in reality markers on cell surfaces that catch fragments of virus particles and display them to cytotoxic cells.

This seems to account for the remarkable diversity of the transplantation antigens, which makes it difficult to match the tissues of any two

people. The diversity of protein materials inherited by an individual is believed to have evolved to equip the body to bind fragments of a variety of viruses. Graft rejection occurs because cytotoxic cells are geared to recognize transplantation antigens and to kill cells seeming abnormal, whether because they have a viral fragment attached or because they belong to someone else.

What Dr Bodmer and her colleagues have done, in experiments with mouse cells, is to show that by modifying protein fragments of an influenza virus they can dramatically increase recognition by cytotoxic cells. Changing a single chemical subunit of one such material led to one 1,000 times as effective as the natural fragment in a standard laboratory test. The authors believe the changes may help the fragments to adhere to the transplantation antigens.

The research may be important in the design of anti-viral vaccines. One possibility is that of using simple, safe and cheap synthetic protein fragments instead of the now-common killed or attenuated virus vaccines. Although their effectiveness has yet to be demonstrated by showing that cytotoxic responses can be stimulated by injecting fragments into animals, the new experiments suggest that it may in principle be possible to design peptides to do that.

MIRANDA ROBERTSON

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THE SOVIET MELTING POT

The calm which has reportedly returned to the Soviet Republic of Armenia this weekend represents a temporary victory for the Soviet leadership. Even this victory, however, has been expensively bought. For the first time, Mr Gorbachov has had to intervene personally and publicly in an internal ethnic dispute. His name and standing are now linked irrevocably to a satisfactory outcome.

In agreeing to examine the particular point of contention — who should administer the predominantly Armenian (and Christian) enclave of Karabakh, which is currently administered by the predominantly Muslim republic of Azerbaijan — Mr Gorbachov has gained time. His action is a classic piece of managerial temporizing: if in doubt, set up a committee. Four weeks may be enough to defuse the particular tensions which have brought up to 500,000 Armenians on to the streets of Yerevan in the past week, and that may serve the Kremlin's immediate purpose. It will not, however, be enough to solve the problem.

As in any dispute where race, religion, politics and territory are all bound up together, satisfaction will be impossible to provide to all the parties involved. Almost anything Mr Gorbachov decides to do, will have implications and liabilities that go far beyond the Caucasus.

If he decides on a hardline approach, this is likely to bring violence — either between the disputing parties, or between the native population and Soviet police and troops. The first would damage relations both between Azerbaijan and Armenians, which are rarely cordial, but also between Christians and Slavs, on the one hand, and the Soviet Union's growing Muslim population, on the other. The second would cause resentment among Armenians, who have hitherto shown loyalty to the Soviet communist leadership in return for being left largely to run their own affairs — which they have done with relative success.

Either course would give the lie to the Soviet leader's carefully cultivated reputation as the author of domestic liberalization and probably damage the new East-West détente. While repression can be, and often has been, kept from the outside world when it occurs in the Soviet Central Asian republics, this is more difficult in the Western parts of the Soviet Union and in the Caucasus. All have a sizeable diaspora which retains strong connections with the homeland.

If Mr Gorbachov decides to treat the Armenians gently, however, to the point of granting their demands for jurisdiction over

Karabakh, the risks are just as great. Any such decision is likely to be challenged in Moscow by those who prefer to play nationalities policy by the ideological rules. These rules, set down soon after the Bolshevik revolution, say that the different nations and nationalities will eventually merge. National differences are expected to decrease rather than increase, and any help given by the Kremlin should be in the direction of uniformity, not diversity. There will be many in the leadership still who would balk at fostering ethnic distinctions.

They would also point out the implications for national security of meeting demands from non-Russian nationalities. Most of the areas inhabited by non-Russians are border areas, regarded by Moscow as the bastions of their defences against a hostile world. Any relaxation of Soviet rule there (and yielding to Armenian pressure would surely be seen in that light) could be interpreted as undermining Soviet security, especially if talk of national rights transformed itself into talk of secession.

Any favours shown to the Armenians would moreover risk a backlash, from at least two directions. It could come from the Azerbaijanis who would lose territory and who could call on support from other, much more populous Central Asian republics. But it could also come from Russian nationalists, whose strength — in numbers and influence — has been demonstrated in public pronouncements and meetings over the past year. The Crimean Tatars, whose demand to be allowed to return to their homeland has also been referred to a (lower-level) committee, could also question the consistency of Kremlin policy.

Mr Gorbachov's chief difficulty, however, arises from his having pledged to do anything at all. In agreeing to examine the grievances of the Karabakh Armenians, he has raised hopes among aggrieved groups all over the Soviet Union, and probably in the countries of Eastern Europe as well.

It is rare indeed to hear a Soviet leader concede that administrative boundaries and frontiers might not be immutable. Now, Poles and Lithuanians, Romanians and Moldavians, Ukrainians and Belorussians — to name but a few of those who lost out in the post-war redrawing of borders — have grounds for thinking that their cases may be reviewed.

Armenia, a comparatively prosperous, ostensibly contented republic, has given a glimpse of the difficulties facing Mr Gorbachov in years to come. If he intends to keep the Soviet empire together, Armenia is where he must start.

WORTH AN AMPHITHEATRE

The discovery of Roman Londinium's long-lost amphitheatre is a happy example of serendipity. The archaeologists who stumbled across it were investigating the remains of an early 15th century chapel. They did not know the amphitheatre was there. At first, they did not even realize what they had found and rebuffed parts of the inner wall.

Even without such accidents, it is an exciting and significant find. Scholars have always known that London, one of the jewels in the Roman imperial crown, must have had a great amphitheatre. For the past 100 years, they have argued and speculated about where it might be. That it should be found under the Guildhall's cobbled courtyard is surprising (why so far west?) but entirely satisfactory. The jigsaw of Roman London's important public buildings is complete.

It is also a discovery of genuine public interest. There is nothing like an amphitheatre for stirring up images of civic pomp and gladiatorial combat, of men armed with trident and net facing bears and wild boars, of noisy crowds being entertained by wrestlers, jugglers and acrobats. It stimulates the imagination in a way that those chunks of the city wall preserved for public viewing in the Barbican and near the Tower cannot.

The tragedy is that the amphitheatre, no sooner discovered, is scheduled to disappear again in four weeks' time under a huge City of London redevelopment scheme. Apparently, the most the archaeologists can hope for is to persuade the contractors not to drive their piles

through the amphitheatre's walls. Working to a longer time scale than most of us, they say they will be content with the possibility of the site being re-excavated in, say, 100 years' time.

This raises a delicate issue. We know as much about Roman London as we do largely thanks to the civic sense, patience and financial generosity of property developers who are not often credited with such qualities. There was a time, after the debacle over the Temple of Mithras excavation in 1955, when no developer would allow an archaeologist to bring a shovel within half a mile of his site.

Since then, developers and archaeologists have struck up a notable rapport. The developers have held back and very often paid for the dig. Their condition is that the archaeologists stick to an agreed timetable and do not ask the architects to tear up their plans, even when they stumble across something as unexpected and remarkable as an amphitheatre.

It is a sensible and civilized arrangement which no one wants to disrupt. In this case, the issue is even more delicate. The Corporation of London is not only the developer: it employs the Museum of London diggers and has already extended their timetable from four months to eight.

Nonetheless, it is to be hoped that when the two sides meet later this week they will find some way to preserve their extraordinary find for the public to gaze upon and speculate about. Paris was worth a Mass. London must surely be worth an amphitheatre.

DHAKA'S FALSE DEMOCRACY

For the past five years President Ershad of Bangladesh has made repeated attempts to secure a measure of legitimacy for his government. Election after election has been called to provide the popular credibility he lacks, but whenever opposition threatened to negate the desired result the election was postponed. When elections were held, the turnout was humiliatingly low. Much the same is likely to happen in the parliamentary elections scheduled for March 3. If they are not cancelled at the last moment, they are unlikely to elicit a popular response.

President Ershad's difficulty derives from the fact that he won power by overthrowing the elected government of President Sattar in 1982. Although General Ershad, as he then was, soon styled himself president, he had to seek a popular mandate for this. The long and bloody civil war which led to Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan 16 years ago helped foster an acute political awareness among the population. As a result, no Bangladeshi dictator has been able to overlook the wishes of the people. In 1978, the late General Zia ur-Rahman legitimized his assumption of power by means of a controlled election. General Ershad could do no less.

President Ershad has experienced considerable problems trying to do the same, however. In 1986, he was able to hold parliamentary and presidential elections. One of the country's main opposition parties, the Awami League took part, giving the exercise a certain credibility. As predicted, General Ershad's party won the parliamentary poll comfortably and he himself — the presidency. For a while it looked as if he had succeeded in

emulating President Zia. Last autumn his luck ran out. The country's previously divided opposition parties united in a bid to force the President's resignation. They called a series of national strikes, many of which brought Dhaka, the capital, to a halt. Their demand was fresh presidential and parliamentary elections under a neutral caretaker administration.

An initial attempt by President Ershad to avoid compromise by arresting the opposition leaders and declaring a state of emergency only fuelled the protests. In December, President Ershad changed tack: he dissolved Parliament and released the opposition leaders in the hope that he might thus retain his presidency. Instead, he has merely whetted their appetite. Sensing their strength, the opposition have decided to boycott the forthcoming poll. They believe they can thus force fresh presidential elections as well. They may be right.

Earlier this month, the opposition's decision to boycott the local government elections resulted in a very low turnout. If the parliamentary elections are held this week, the same will happen again. In the present atmosphere, widespread violence cannot be ruled out. The local elections left more than 100 dead and thousands injured.

The planned elections are unlikely, therefore, to serve any purpose. They will not ease the President's predicament nor will they pacify discontented Bangladeshis. Sooner or later, President Ershad will have to submit himself for re-election in a manner which commands credibility. If he does, he will inevitably face the risk of defeat, but he could also win grudging respect.

Reopening the wounds of war

From Lord Monson
Sir, It is proper that atrocities perpetrated by nations should never be entirely forgotten. So there is nothing unfair about occasionally reminding the world of the Austrians' (and Italians') good fortune in virtually escaping blame after 1945, as compared with the Germans and their numerous supporters in eastern Europe.

Whether it is right to pillory specific individuals after almost half a century is another matter. The sword that reopens old wounds is usually a two-edged one, as recent revelations about the fate of many Axis prisoners at the hands of the Allies demonstrate.

Nevertheless, Mr Bernard Levin (February 15) has challenged your readers to think of a country other than Austria genuinely free in every sense, from elections to the press, in which the head of state has engaged in behaviour which would render it impossible for any self-respecting person to sit down at his table, and yet insists on remaining in office.

To this one must reluctantly point out that the head of state of that genuinely free country, Japan, who was at the relevant time not only older than Dr Waldheim but vastly more senior in rank, once presided over a country which indulged in prolonged aggression and atrocities of every kind, starting with the terrible rape of Nanking in December, 1937, and ending with appalling medical experiments upon Allied prisoners of war many years later. Yet, unlike Waldheim, he is an honoured guest in most Western capitals. An interesting contrast.

Yours faithfully,
MONSON
House of Lords,
February 23.

Posts and outposts

From the Managing Director of Royal Mail Letters

Sir, Contrary to what Mrs Gorman suggests (February 24) the task and cost of delivering a letter bear no comparison with having a newspaper or bottle of milk delivered to the door, or buying any item from a local shop. Milk isn't taken from a particular cow in Devon, individually bottled and personally addressed and delivered to a particular doorstep in Scotland.

Each of the 50 million letters handled every day is a unique and personalised item, not comparable with anything prepared on a production line. They are posted at any of the 100,000 collection points around the country for delivery through a complex transport and sorting network to any one of 23 million addressees.

Contrary to what Mrs Gorman believes, about two thirds of the cost of handling letters is in transportation and delivery. And, of course, these costs are at their highest in rural areas.

Private operators could be expected to "cream off" the more profitable parts of the postal service in the urban areas. This would hit Post Office income and force us to put up prices for rural areas or cut back on rural services. Alternatively, we would have to seek a taxpayers' subsidy.

The discussion of these issues, but it is important that the debate considers the rural services and how to ensure that the Post Office and any competitors can operate on a fair and equal basis.

Yours etc,
BILL COCKBURN,
Managing Director,
Royal Mail Letters,
Post Office Headquarters,
33 Grosvenor Place, SW1.

From Mr Frederick O. Marsh
Sir, At 8 a.m. today I posted a letter to an address in Caxton Street, London, SW1, by first-class mail. In the Buckingham Gate postbox, which is normally emptied at 9 a.m.

I was amazed beyond belief to receive a telephone reply to my letter at 2.30 p.m. and to be told that it had been delivered, the same day, by second post.

Yours faithfully,
F. O. MARSH (Proprietor),
Marsh Business Services,
Suite 4, 40 Buckingham Gate,
Westminster, SW1,
February 23.

From Mr Hugo Trotter
Sir, I am happy to report that I received today at 12.30 p.m. a letter posted for the 10.45 a.m. collection this morning in SW1. Yours faithfully,
HUGO TROTTER,
12 Caxton Street, SW1,
February 23.

No hiding place

From Mrs Josephine Crilly
Sir, The Noise Abatement Society will, for the price of £1 and a 9in. x 6in. s.a.e., provide 10 reminder cards, to be left with or posted to offenders. Addressed "To the Manager," one paragraph reads: "Your establishment will be boycotted until you reduce the volume to an acceptable level, or better still, stop the noise altogether."

A "portable telephone" reference could easily be added. This could Mr G. B. R. Harrison (February 16) assuage his irritation and, albeit anonymously, still remain on good terms with his (reformed?) restaurant manager.

Yours faithfully,
JOSEPHINE CRILLY,
Whitecroft, 7 Brooklands Road,
Sale, Cheshire,
February 24.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fairer examination of the GCSE

From the General Secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers

Sir, It was extremely disappointing to read your editorial of February 23. You have used the current concern about certain aspects of the examination in order to run the argument that the GCSE is an inadequate substitute for the old O-level/CSE system.

Its most worrying aspect, however, is the manner in which it not only seeks to implant substantial doubts in the minds of pupils and parents in particular, but tries to devalue the examination before the first cohort of pupils actually takes it. It is well known that there are concerns about certain aspects of the run-up to the examination, not least in terms of the workload which has been placed upon teachers and pupils. Accordingly I would have thought that the GCSE will not be anything remotely approaching a "soft option".

The tragedy is that the people who are expressing those concerns at the present time are in grave danger of inadvertently "talking themselves down" and thus giving ammunition to people who wish to write off the GCSE and thereby quite unnecessarily worry pupils and parents alike.

Clearly there is a need for representatives of the Department of Education and Science, the Secondary Examinations Council, the Joint Council for the GCSE, the local education authorities and the teachers' organisations to get together and evaluate the lessons to be learnt from the two-year run-up to the 1988 examination. However, let us do that in a calm, rational and professional manner and in the meantime be spared further interventions which can do nothing to assist those preparing for the vitally important examination.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HART,
General Secretary,
The National Association of Head Teachers,
6 Paddockhall Road,
Haywards Heath, West Sussex,
February 24.

From Mr K. L. Saxby

Sir, Those claiming to defend elitism have joined ranks with the bastards of privilege in a last desperate attempt to prevent children being examined in such a way as to show what they know. The GCSE examination aims to allow pupils to score marks rather than lose marks; it does not, as your recent leader suggests, rate interpretation above fact, but it does rate the interpretation of facts higher than regurgitation of facts. Similarly, the art of

Product liability

From Mr Robert Mackmurdo

Sir, Frances Gibb's helpful article on product liability (February 22) should begin to shake senior management out of its "couldn't care less" attitude to product safety. But I fear the awakening comes too late for many companies to prepare for the new regime before the law hits them very hard indeed. After a 25-year campaign, and at least 10 years' notice of strict liability, industry is still ill-prepared for the Consumer Protection Act.

The central question is not whether strict product liability rests with this company or with that company — as in the example of the maker of a car and the maker of the brakes — but rather on how many other companies, as well as the makers of the car and

grammatically sound conversation is given a true status alongside grammatically correct written work.

The concepts of GCSE encourage academic excellence in all aspects of the curriculum. What they do not do is encourage rote learning for its own sake. It is difficult to teach through the "old school" method, for "learn this and you will pass the exams" will no longer hold. Children will actually have to understand their lessons and use their knowledge.

The alliance of diehard historians, ivory-towered academics and extreme right-wing politicians is united in trying to maintain that a well-educated person should score 70 per cent in a general knowledge test, even if unable to communicate with, or understand, the majority of fellow citizens.

To all those working so hard to make GCSE a success, I say, continue to battle for a true assessment of children's work and provide a genuinely educated society.

Yours faithfully,
K. L. SAXBY, Headmaster,
Tideway School,
Southdown Road,
Newhaven, East Sussex.

University funding

From Mr Robert Key, MP for Salisbury (Conservative)

Sir, Dr Edwards's letter about university funding (February 22) shows a revealing lack of grasp of the political economy of Oxbridge colleges.

They are paid by local authorities, but fully funded by the secretary of state, who establishes the level of fees charged by the colleges. Those fees are negotiated from time to time by the DES directly with the colleges and represent a public subsidy to Oxbridge of some £40 million each year, in addition to the University Grants Committee's recurrent grant to those two universities.

Dr Edwards argues that the Universities Funding Council (UFC) should have no business with the Oxford and Cambridge colleges. But surely, if the power of the secretary of state and his officials is as sinister as has been argued, notably in Oxbridge circles, then the colleges should rather seek the protection of the UFC?

This would have the advantage of enabling the academic community as a whole to weigh up the priority to be accorded in the allocation of £40 million of public subsidy.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT KEY,
House of Commons.

the brakes, does liability also fall, taking account of the new and established rules.

Consumer bodies are supposed to be champions of the consumer. Consumers will benefit more from safer design, marketing and presentation of products than from the easier lines of redress which the new law creates. The fallacious message that the "development risks defence" subtracts significantly from the advances achieved by the new law acts against the interests of the consumers. This discretionary defence is that manufacturers are not liable for a danger that could not have been foreseen at the time the product was put on the market.

Yours faithfully,
BOB MACKMURDO (Director,
Product Liability Research
Group Limited),
199 Piccadilly, W1.

In modern dress

From the General Editor of The Oxford Shakespeare

Sir, Sir Robert Lusty asks (February 22) how future readers of the Dr Dolittle books are to "become aware of changes which have taken place in social attitudes and all the rest of the treasured books from the past still in demand are to be bowdlerised." The answer lies in his verb "bowdlerised".

In the early nineteenth century Henrietta and Thomas Bowdler created from the "treasured books" of William Shakespeare (not to say Edward Gibbon) bastard versions which, frequently reprinted for a century and more, now gather dust in library basements. No doubt the authentic works of Hugh Lofting will similarly co-exist with their illegitimate offspring, and in the fulness of time see them consigned to a no less well-merited oblivion.

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY WELLS,
General Editor,
The Oxford Shakespeare,
40 Walton Crescent, Oxford,
February 23.

Time out of mind

From Mr Christopher Nelms

Sir, Some years ago I discovered that I couldn't settle comfortably to my work in the morning without first attempting *The Times* crossword. I would arrive early at the office to allow for this. A couple of years ago you added the Portfolio competition to my burden. Next came Philip Howard's "Word-watching"; and now your "Tournament of the Mind" is included in the chores which I have a compulsion to finish before starting my day in earnest.

If you add another task to the list, I shall be forced to consider early retirement.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER NELMS,
The Old Forge House,
Crickley Green,
Hartley Wintney, Hampshire,
February 25.

Voice of people and architects

From Lord Esher
Sir, I was intrigued by Mr Francis Tibbalds's letter (February 24) as its philosophy was almost identical with what was preached in the fifties in the pages of the *Architectural Review*.

I think one clue to why what we called the *genius loci* got lost lies in his advocacy (which was also ours) of teamwork. As soon as we started working "humbly" with other professionals we found traffic engineers rightly worried about movement, and parking and economists rightly pointing out that there was no way in our society of stopping developers assembling large parcels of land. And indeed where would London be without John Nash and later the Metropolitan Board of Works; where Paris without Haussmann?

I don't think great commercial capitals like London, New York, and Tokyo can be addressed in Mr Tibbalds's quietest language, and I believe the City of London is all the richer visually for its wild contrasts of scale and style.

As for "the aspirations of ordinary people", when passers-by were invited to vote on the height of the NatWest Tower and on the shortlisted designs for the National Gallery extension, those interested voted for the taller tower and the most "carbuncular" of all the designs. As Pope put it:

The people's voice is odd:
It is, and it is not, the voice of God.

In my experience "ordinary people" are non-visual. What they like (as does the Prince of Wales) is familiarity, and the architect has to soldier on in the faith that what he does will one day become familiar — and be listed.

Yours faithfully,
ESHER,
Christmas Common Tower,
Wallingford, Oxford,
February 25.



ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 29 1912

On March 1 more than 850,000 miners struck for higher pay. On March 29 a Bill was passed to provide district minimum wages and the strike ended.

A MINER'S EXPERIENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—I read with interest your article in Friday's issue of *The Times*, "The Government and the Coal Strike". You blame the men and not the masters — surely our demands are not unreasonable. I know men, working nights, getting 2s. 8d. a shift, and 51½ per cent on that brings it to about 4s. per shift. If the night men work five nights they get six shifts; if they lose one night they get paid for four shifts, 18s., instead of 24s. Now we have to pay 6s. to 10s. and even more per week for jerry-built houses.

... Then we have to pay increased prices for food, sugar, butter, &c. If we get an advance in wages our provisions go up, and we are no better off; but if we should get a drop the grocers forget to drop their provisions. ...

... we have been three weeks without house coal, and we can see our pits from our door-steps, seven minutes' walk to the nearest pit. Yet they won't, or cannot, supply us with house coal. When we get it, it is half small coal and slag. We pay about 11s. 6d. per ton for it. You are aware that we are getting nothing for small coal. Small coal don't pay, so masters say; yet I can see a small coal washery and plant that cost over £20,000, all got out of small coal: it is only about a quarter of a mile from our house. Sir, I know you are inclined to believe the masters before the men. Of course, you are at liberty to believe what you choose to. I can soon tell you how the pits and collieries don't pay. ... All of our collieries are overrun by parasites, relatives, or friends of managers, shareholders, youngsters learning to be managers, &c. They have to be paid and kept out of the miners' labour.

I can give you a case of a manager being dismissed at a moment's notice, after 16 years' service, for a brother-in-law of the managing director to have the position. Years ago the owners used to live within the precincts or somewhere about the top of the mines, like the old grocers used to live over the shop; but now the scene has changed. Our owners live in London and Cardiff, and, of course, the grocers live somewhere in the suburbs in "villadom". We have our managing director living at Caerleon, about 20 miles or so from the colliery. You see now, if any strike occurred, these managers would be out of the way; the crowd of hooligans, who are always on the prowl, would break into the first grocer's shop that they came to. The poor grocer, who couldn't help the strike, would suffer; whereas the real instigators of the strike would be safe. ... I am a miner of 30 years' experience, and I know what I am writing about. ...

I am yours faithfully,
STEPHEN HAMILTON,
3, C. D. Houses, Clarence-place,
Blennau Gwent, Aberdare,
R.S.O., Monmouthshire, Feb. 26.

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Redleg blues

The Redlegs of Barbados (Channel 4, Saturday) are the whitish descendants of the indentured servants who first worked the land in the early 17th century, and of the "lewd and dangerous persons" transported by the Protectorate. White servitude was a rehearsal for black slavery. After emancipation, numerically swamped by Africans, the redlegs drifted to the bottom of the social scale, inbreeding like flies and consequently prey to such conditions as leishmaniasis.

The poor whites are also alleged to suffer from osteoarthritis. This film repeatedly twanged the raw nerve of reflex race slander, with the black presenter going out of his way to commend the modern redlegs' "legendary" fishing skills as a corrective to their popular image as rummy shirkers. For good measure, one of the Watsons, Goddards, Kings or Norrises wrapped his time-warp vowels around the proposition that it is the blacks who are bone-idle.

The energy devoted to chartering a sailing ship staffed with lumpy extras in period costume might better have been employed in teasing out the anomalies and contradictions of everyday redleg life. Having at last unearthed a rare "mixed" couple, the well-meaning presenter asked them how they "related" to each other. She giggled; he said they were normal; their half-caste baby spoke not a word but pointed to the ceiling. It was that kind of programme.

On Sunday night, the same channel offered *The Comic Strip Presents... More Bad News*, an overexposed and underinspired sequel to *The Bad News Tour*. None of this was remotely as funny as the American film, *This Is Spinal Tap*, on which it so heavily leaned.

Martin Cropper

Jimmy Mulville (right), star of *That's Love, Who Dares Wins* and the new series *Chelmsford 123*, talks to Andrew Billen



Degree of fun

Jimmy Mulville's friends have told him what they think of *That's Love*. They do not understand why a Cambridge Footlights president, who went on to produce *Radio Four's* spunky *Radio Active* and star in three series of Channel 4's first satire show, *Who Dares Wins*, wants to play the lead in an ITV sitcom — let alone one about a professional couples, nannies and mother-in-laws.

In mitigation, *That's Love*, of which the final episode is transmitted tomorrow at 9.30pm, is actually rather funny. It is no *Fawlty Towers*, but Terence Frisby's scripts are nicely structured, the jokes burn slowly but ignite surely, and (a rare thing in British comedies) actors stay in character to deliver punchlines.

"Some who say they don't like it probably just aren't ready to watch domestic sitcoms yet," says Mulville, at 33 married, mortgaged but not yet a father. "That would be true, however good it was."

He is speaking in a mobile production hut outside a house in Shepherd's Bush where he is filming on location for the fourth series of *Who Dares Wins*. In this final series he is directing some of the show himself and periodically he has to rush out to squint down a camera and tell a much older actor how to drop a cigarette into a wastepaper basket.

The pilot for *Who Dares*, transmitted in Channel 4's first week in 1982, did its bit to fuel the station's reputation for offensiveness by using the crucifixion to gaily the Hamlet cigar commercials. In 1984 it was in trouble again for a defamatory graffiti about a

Cabinet minister, scrawled on a prop. "In today's climate of opinion," he says, "we couldn't do any of that. We think very hard before doing things and play a lot safer than we did. Against that, we are tighter and more professional."

It was not so very long ago that Griff Rhys Jones, a Footlights contemporary of Mulville's, was the one who could not place on *Not the Nine O'Clock News*. Thanks to *Chelmsford 123*, which begins on Channel 4 on March 6, this could be the year that Mulville's name would be described as the "Tin" Brooke-Taylor look-alike.

A parody of Roman Britain, the six-part comedy stars Mulville and his long-standing collaborator, Rory McGrath. It is produced by Denise O'Donoghue, Mulville's wife, who this morning is engaged on the phone at the other end of the hut attempting to unravel some contractual tangle. The three formed their own production company to make *Chelmsford*.

There will be no anachronism gags, no wrist-watch sundials. Instead the humour grows out of the relationship between McGrath and Mulville and the conquering Romans' culture shock. "I know the comparisons that will be made," he says. "But it lacks the schoolboy humour of *Up Pompeii* and the literary elegance of *Blackadder*."

He is pleased by the modest fuss caused by scripting half the first episode in Latin, which he was taught at school. As for his omission from the core curriculum: "Where do they think the word curriculum comes from?"

He took on a Cambridge friend, now a teacher, as historical adviser on the series. When details are wrong it will be deliberate.

But historical erudition is not the point. Notwithstanding *That's Love*, he simply wanted to escape contemporary sit-com settings and, with *Blackadder* having bagged most of English history, he was left with a choice between the distant future and the distant past. The former turned out to be cheaper to mount.

MODERN PAINTERS

BEASTLY BAD TASTE

ROGER SCRUTTON ON GILBERT & GEORGE
FIRST ISSUE
ON SALE NOW! £3.50



A western report on eastern magnificence: Mehmed II's 1570 view of the new Süleymaniye Mosque is from the British Museum's Prints and Drawings collection; until May 30

Resplendent refinement

GALLERY

Süleyman the Magnificent
British Museum

It must be an index of our European insularity that we know far more about Henry VIII, the Emperor Charles V and Francis I of France, than we do about their contemporary Süleyman the Magnificent of Turkey. Of course everyone has a hazy picture of the view of Istanbul across the Golden Horn, and presumably the mosque to which he

gave his name, the masterpiece of his architect Sinan, will be part of it. But it is also significant that the very name of Sinan is less known than that of many a much less important European.

At least Süleyman has the instant advantage of being labelled "the Magnificent", which rings well in the title of an exhibition such as that the British Museum is now welcoming from the Turkish Government by way of the Metropolitan Museum, New York (until May 30). It is particularly good that we are not missing out on this great touring show as we have on many others in recent years, either from lack of a suitable

venue or, more usually, lack of finance (this one is sponsored by Standard Chartered PLC and Interbank, Turkey), for it is, in a word, well, magnificent. And it achieves this even while holding as closely as is reasonable to Muslim prohibitions about the making of images and without overwhelming us with masses of heavy gold, to get it into the "treasures" category.

It is immediately evident that the Turkish civilization of Süleyman's day was tuned to an extraordinary degree of refinement. Refinement not unmixing with luxury, he it said. One need only look at the amazing examples of calligraphy, where the signature

becomes an intricate abstract pattern placed with absolute nicety on what are probably documents of bureaucratic banality. But also at the wonderfully rich and subtle fabrics of which the ceremonial garments are made, or which often cover a simple floor cushion.

When strong colour comes in, as in the resplendent Iznik ceramics — plates, vessels, tiles — it is used with a sure dramatic sense, in unforgotten blues and greens and reds which have influenced many generations of much more self-conscious potters in the West. Not that there is any thing primitive about these Turkish ceramics, but as with

even the grandest examples of the time, like the Süleymaniye Mosque, the artist has a (to us) curious way of disappearing into the art-work.

Of course, the show has its treasures, and it has its images. The jewelled mugs and jugs and maces and swords have probably enough sparkle to satisfy even the most avid treasure-seeker, but even there the effect is usually elegant rather than lavish: one finds oneself looking at the design, and forgetting the material. And there are, as one might expect considering the fairly close proximity of Persian manuscripts and Mughal miniatures, quite a number of wonderfully rich illuminations from manuscripts of the

time — including even some writing from the cultivated hand of Süleyman himself.

But everywhere you turn, there is some new feast for the eye, and some new insight to tease the mind. At least no one who visits this show will ever again be able to think of the Turks simply (and inaccurately) as the barbarians who destroyed Byzantium. But were, thank heavens, turned away from the gates of Vienna in the nick of time, before they could overrun the whole of Europe. On this evidence, there could be many worse fates for Western civilization.

John Russell Taylor

Royal Opera's offside no-ball

OPERA

Un ballo in maschera
Covent Garden

Covent Garden's losing streak with Verdi showed little sign of being reversed with this weekend's revival of *Un ballo in maschera*. The Royal Opera may claim with justification that it had assembled a strong hand of international singers for the piece before being dealt two nasty cards. First there was the withdrawal early on of Giorgio Zancanaro, usually one of the most dependable of Verdi baritones. Then, before the curtain went up, there came an apology on behalf of the tenor, Giacomo Aragall, for an infection of both throat and ear.

Such announcements can turn a singer into the hero of the hour, triumphing over adversity, as happened with Thomas Allen in *Billy Budd* at the Coliseum last Wednesday. Or they can act as warning that the evening is not going to be the one the audience had hoped for. And the latter was the case with *Ballo*.

It was clear from the opening aria, "La rivedrai", in which Gustavus delights in seeing the name of his beloved



Distinguished debut: the voice of Alexandru Agache should be heard again at Covent Garden

Amelia on the list of guests for that masked ball, that Aragall was in poor vocal shape, with top of the voice often not much more than a whisper. By the time Act III was reached and Gustavus decides to pay a final farewell to Amelia, "Ma se m'e forza", there had been little improvement.

With the exception of the first scene of Act III, Gustavus is on stage — and singing — for most of the opera. So a *Ballo* with an out-of-sorts Gustavus is no *Ballo*. Both Giacomo Aragall and Covent Garden

should be asking themselves whether it was wise for him to go on: replacements for this role are not beyond reach. And it was noticeable that he did not take a solo call when the curtain came down.

Margaret Price, after her experience with *Ballo* in Vienna a year and a half ago, when she left abruptly after the first performance, showed bravery in tackling Amelia again. It is still open to question whether this is her part, despite the recording with Solbi.

The voice obstinately refused to swell over the orchestra when Amelia makes her visit to Mme. Arvidson's fortune-telling pitch. It showed at its best in the second half of "Morro — ma prima in grazia", although this was sung more as a concert aria than an impassioned plea. The great Act II duet was clearly upset by Aragall's indisposition.

By far the most distinguished singing among the principals came from the young Romanian baritone,

Alexandru Agache, as Ankerström. Swarthy, barrel-chested and bearded, he is built on heroic lines and has a voice to match. His dark timbre recalls the young Stanislav Milnes. There is a certain rawness still and Agache has something yet to learn about Verdi phrasing, but this was a debut impressive enough to secure him, I hope, an early return.

The supporting performances were patchy. Irina Archipova's mighty mezzo is now but a shadow of its former greatness and her Mme. Arvidson looked as if she had come out of the ark rather than a gypsy caravan. Judith Howarth's Oscar brightened a generally drab evening, but she does not yet pick up the notes in the style of the best interpreters of the part — Battle and Grist among them.

Sympathy went to Richard Armstrong, a Verdian of proven class in his many years with the WNO, in trying to hold the whole thing together in the context of a staging that now looks down-at-heel. But the orchestra did not really show their form until the final act.

There was polite applause from a polite and unenthralled audience. But there are cast changes to come.

John Higgins

John Percival has niggling doubts about a reconstruction of Nijinsky's lost work

Getting the Rite right

DANCE

Did Serge Diaghilev, in a fit of pique, deliberately throw away a masterpiece when Nijinsky abandoned him in 1913 to marry Romola de Pulsley, or did he believe that *The Rite of Spring* was a lost cause anyway?

The riots at its Paris premiere on May 29, 1913, are notorious, and the next night was nearly as bad, but there were only a few cat calls at three further performances in the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées.

Then the ballet came to London where British audiences, although more polite, also found it disconcerting at first sight. The ballet had only eight performances in its original form. With so complex a work, it is little wonder that when Diaghilev finally wanted to present it again, in 1920, nobody could remember Nijinsky's choreography and Massine had to do a new version.

So what are we to think when the Joffrey Ballet, after a lapse of almost 75 years and without the direct participation of anyone who even saw the original, presents what it claims as a reconstruction of the original ballet? Having seen their version at the Vienna Dance Festival, I find myself fascinated but not convinced.

Nijinsky claimed to have written down the choreo-

graphy of *Rite* but nobody has ever found it. The documentary evidence that does survive is frustratingly incomplete.

Stravinsky wrote some notes on a piano score; Marie Rambert (who was his assistant during rehearsals to help analyze the music) also subsequently wrote notes on her score. The surprisingly few photographs we all posed off-stage. But there were drawings. The artist Ballantine Gross watched the ballet night after night and filled several sketch books — but the pages were not kept in order.

To this could be added contemporary and later (generally much later) descriptions, often contradictory. Millicent Hodson, an American dance historian, with Joffrey's encouragement, spent 16 years gathering every scrap of evidence she could and collating them. Since 1981 she has worked with Kenneth Archer, an English art historian specializing in Roerich, the ballet's designer, and with Stravinsky, joint librettist.

The task must have been more like archaeology than choreography, finding out which bits went together and estimating what must have come in the gaps, like someone who glues surviving shards together to remake an ancient pot.

In its general patterning, the result is impressive. It shows that Nijinsky, a young and inexperienced choreographer,



Convincing: Beatriz Rodriguez as the Chosen Virgin

must have responded with amazing care and imagination to a score which most people found overwhelmingly difficult at the time and long after.

The patterns are spatially and rhythmically very complex. The movement, twisted and spasmodic, often deliberately without any single focus but spreading across from one group to another, anticipates many innovations that were to seem revolutionary 20, 40, 60 years later. The text is also more varied than we generally see in recent versions. The two scenes are strongly contrasted, with the curtain lowered during a musical interlude.

With hindsight, we look at it more reverently, but there are still passages that can raise a smile; for instance the sup-

posedly 300-year-old witch at the beginning, with sudden demented jumps interrupting her mouse-like scurrying. No wonder audiences in 1913, taken by surprise, responded with cat calls and hissing. The amazing thing is that some viewers did recognize what it was aiming at.

I am assuming that in its outlines this reconstruction is as near as one can get to the original — and Beatriz Rodriguez in the leading role of the Chosen Virgin gives a thoroughly convincing and committed performance. But I do not feel in it the animating spirit that calls both fury and enthusiasm. I suspect, indeed, that today's male ballet dancers, lacking the heaviness of the Diaghilev cast, must lose something from it anyway; and I am sure that the genius of Nijinsky would have insisted on some inventions or emphasis which the application of Dr Hodson cannot hope to catch.

All the same, the attempt was worthwhile. The crying shame is that nobody did it sooner, while eye witnesses were still alive who might have spotted where it caught and where it departed from the original.

There are no plans at present to bring the production to London; it is expected to open the Spoleto Festival in Italy this summer and there are hopes of a television documentary. A book on the reconstruction is also in preparation.

THEATRE

Cuttin' a Rug
Dundee Rep

"Look," says Phil to his mate Spanky, "you're 19 with a wardrobe full of clothes. You've got everything to live for." *Cuttin' a Rug* is full of such philosophical insights from these two, and from the rest of the company, as they pick their way through the treacherous undergrowth at the staff Christmas party of A.F. Stobo & Co, carpet manufacturers of Paisley.

For it is 1957 and they were the slab boys and this is the second part of *Paisley Patter*, the three plays widely but incorrectly known as *The Slab Boys* trilogy, which first brought John Byrne to prominence as a writer.

This revival is workmanlike rather than scintillating. Indeed the first act, with the characters preparing for the bacchanalia, is distinctly lacklustre. But it cheers up as the party proceeds. Byrne's gift for fixing the Glasgow dialogue is acute and the principal characters are subtly observed.

What nobody seems quite sure about is whether the play has a serious side in among the gags. The problem of register runs through the production. If you go for the jokes, and clearly a packed house in Dundee were loving them, then you will have a good time, but Byrne's TV work in *Tutti Frutti* and *Normal Service* suggests that that approach may be to short-change him.

Robert Dawson Scott

Greed and good

"I know Andrew Phillips", said one of the contributors to the discussion that followed The Hibbert Lecture (Radio 4, Tuesday), "and he's one of the best Jeremiahs we have". It was a fairly accurate description of what had gone before. Taking advantage of an opportunity to exercise "private judgements in matters of religion" — which is what this annual occasion provides — Phillips spoke on "The Love Of Money", setting out to give an unsparing account of the worship of mammon which, as a City solicitor, he sees going on all around.

The three fellow Christians who, all wise in the world of business, then joined him and Libby Purves for discussion, were quick enough to point out that he had ignored both the real difficulties public

RADIO

companies face in giving away their money — which does after all belong to the shareholders — and the extent to which many of them actually manage to do so. And, said a senior representative of Barclays Bank, ethical and humane considerations do indeed enter boardroom deliberations without being eclipsed by a rage to maximize profits.

Phillips did not seem to want to deny their criticisms and, somewhat, by the end, all his heartfelt strictures had faded into nothing, like a cry in an empty church. This may have been partly because if you will insist on painting the blackest possible picture, others are bound to chuck in a bit of white and the end result is grey. Perhaps, too, because behind his peroration there was an awareness of greed in individuals, while the subsequent talk tended to revolve around corporate behaviour. The effect was as if part of his thesis had simply been ignored.

But perhaps the greatest problem such a speaker faces is the knowledge, among his listeners, that preachers have been saying exactly the same thing since the beginning of history and nothing much has changed as a result. We rather enjoy the castigation while it is happening, but after that — which may be seen as a manifestation of the entertainment industry — an aged, familiar activity takes over. I call it selective adjectival substitution and one example goes like this: "I am prudent, you are self-interested, he is obsessed with money".

Perhaps the fact that part of the drama output is no longer lumped together as *Afternoon Theatre*, or even *The Afternoon Play*, is designed to prevent people like me from issuing blanket condemnations on the basis of irregular sampling. These days we have to deal with these productions, individually, which is bad luck on things like *A Chip On The Shoulder* (Radio 4, Thursday).

In earlier times, Josephine, Hacon's play might have escaped notice in some general anathema. The trouble here was that what was apparently intended to be a comedy, about a man addicted to his new personal computer, turned out woefully short of telling situations, sharp and funny dialogue, or indeed anything that distinguished it as the work of someone with a bit of an individual voice.

But it was Shakespearean stuff compared with *Tales From the Courts of Law* which LBC has been putting out now for some weeks as a successor to its first venture into drama serial, *Peyy's Diary*. Both of these were made by Independent Radio Drama Productions, one of several studios which will do work for anybody wanting drama: commercial stations and airlines are prime targets.

To my mind both have suffered greatly from LBC's decision to put them out in daily five-minute episodes. This not only suggests a very low opinion on audience attention span but, for me at least, makes serious listening almost impossible: no sooner are you into the action than it is all over. I have only been able to take anything in by hearing some uninterrupted versions sent out by the studio.

On this basis, *Peyy's* was quite attractive: its sound, perspectives were a bit hazy and the scriptwriters wobbled appallingly, but the zest of the original came over: *Tales From the Courts of Law* is without this advantage and it sounds intolerably lame. Even in 46 five-minute episodes, *Peyy's* was a great deal better than the ILR norm of no drama at all; but with the current offering, I am not so sure.

David Wade

MONDAY PAGE

Mistress of the Old Masters

More than 50 Old Masters from the Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection are coming to London. Roger Boyes spoke to the woman in charge

There is a sweet sadness about a gallery that has loaned its best paintings. Irene Martin, who administers the Thyssen-Bornemisza collection at Lugano in Switzerland, looks at the blank patches, at the men hammering the crates for London, and shakes her head, like a woman whose children have left home. "I don't like walking around the gallery at a time like this," she says.

The paintings, more than 50 Old Masters, are on their way to London for a Royal Academy exhibition which is sponsored by *The Times*. They are the best of the collection of 1,400 owned by Baron Hans Heinrich Thyssen. It says something about the strength of the collection — the largest in private ownership after the Queen's — that even a denuded gallery bristles with great works. There is a bare patch, then a Rubens, a Tintoretto, a Holbein, a painting missing, then a Frans Hals, a roomful of Dutch painters, a Canaletto... and another blank space.

It is Martin's enviable task, as administrative director, to keep the collection as a living unit and not just a warehouse of great art. This means making arrangements for exhibitions abroad, negotiating the loan of 50 or 100 paintings of the Thyssen collection for the equivalent number from Spain or the Soviet Union. It means filtering the offers of new paintings ("we get about five offerings a week"), weeding out the poor quality works before approaching the Baron for a decision. But the main point is to make the private gallery of a fabulously wealthy man into a collection accessible to the public.

"We meet often," Martin says, gazing out of her office window at the twinkling lake. "And the number of long-distance calls we clock up is incredible."

New, apart from the London exhibition, is a plan to exhibit 20th-century paintings in Moscow and Leningrad this summer. The Baron, as usual, made the first trip but since last August Martin, a cheerful 46-year-old Japanese-American, has made four negotiating expeditions.

"I go through the portfolios of fund-raising, say yes or no on the paintings, look through the storeroom." There is a certain amount of political, as well as artistic, detective work. Who,

under the policy of *glasnost*, can be shown and who must stay buried?

"The Russians are offering about 45 paintings for an exhibition of Soviet Revolutionary art here at the Villa Favaria. But we have to shape the selection," she says. Later this year she will visit Novosibirsk to arrange an exhibition there.

Martin was born in China; her parents moved to Japan after the Communist take-over and then to America. She studied art history — specializing in Spanish painters — at the Southern Methodist University in Texas. At the same time, she worked as a secretary in a museum, climbing up the administrative ladder.

After spending some time in Fort Worth and Dallas, she worked for 10 months at a private collection in Barcelona and then last June there was a

computerized (some 200 works are being bought or sold at any one time) and there are checking procedures to be carried out with Dr. Emil Bessard, the chief conservator, to ensure that paintings are not damaged. At its most prosaic, Martin's work includes redesigning insulated crates (with the advice of the Tate Gallery) for the paintings, checking the anti-burglar sensors and deciding whether to build a lift. Unlike major public galleries, Martin does not work with a budget, but simply submits projects and cost estimates to the Baron.

At the moment big decisions are hanging fire while the Baron deliberates on whether to take the bulk of the collection out of Switzerland. A large core — perhaps 400 paintings, enough to put most British galleries to shame — would stay in Lugano, but the rest could be transported to Bonn or Stuttgart, or to Spain. There is much lobbying by the world's culture ministries and public galleries — Thyssen is the biggest prize of all — but it is the family who will decide.

Certainly the collection is too large for Lugano. Martin's management techniques keep it under control, but it is depressing to see the modern works hanging unobserved and unlabelled, on steel pull-out walls that resemble a huge safe deposit box.

In a small corner, near the restoration studio, there is a Hockney, a Grosz, a Nolde, perhaps 20 works, worth possibly £15 million, in an area the size of a pantry. "We must do something about it," Martin says. She speaks with the determination of a professional manager. But in front of her favourite portrait — an earnest young knight by the Venetian Vittore Carpaccio, she loses her briskness and breaks out in a wide grin. Managing paintings, it seems, is a more intimate process than managing people.

There is a bare patch, then a Rubens, a Tintoretto, a Holbein...

meeting with the Baron. "We talked over his card table and, after 20 minutes, the matter was decided." Divorced, with an 18-year-old son now at an American university, she was free to move quickly into a splendid apartment at the villa in Lugano.

There are 250,000 visitors a year to the exhibition staged by the Thyssen Gallery. Even on the long strip of estate that follows the contours of the lake, it is difficult to see how the number of visitors could be increased. This house — established by Hans Heinrich's father for a much smaller collection — has no concessions to tourism: no parking space, no hot-dog stands, no lifts for the handicapped.

To carry the London paintings out of the villa, doors had to be taken off their hinges. For Martin, the difficulty lay in finding a balance in the choice of paintings between the personal favourites of the owner and the interest of the public.

The catalogue of the Baron's paintings

TOMORROW

Your invitation to an evening private view of Old Master Paintings from the Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection presented at the Royal Academy and sponsored by The Times

Exhibitions down to a fine art: Irene Martin and one of the works to be displayed, van Dyck's "Portrait of Jacques Le Roy"

A question of protocol

Who needs the excuse of a Leap Year to propose putting a loving relationship on a firmer footing? Certainly not women, according to Dr Rosalind Miles, director of the Centre for Women's Studies at Coventry Polytechnic, and author of *Modest Proposals* (Macdonald, £5.95) and other works on women's issues.

Members of the gentle sex, says Miles, have been proposing to, or at least propositioning, men since time immemorial, whether it is a Leap Year or not. Joan Collins, Queen Victoria and Lady Caroline Lamb share this dubious distinction with fictional heroines, such as Shakespeare's Juliet and Scarlett O'Hara in *Gone With the Wind*.

Not all these ladies were successful: Collins was rebuffed by the film mogul Arthur Loewe Jun., the hot-blooded Scarlett cold-shouldered by the stuffy Ashley Wilkes, and Lady Caroline made a spectacle of herself in her frantic and fruitless pursuit of Lord Byron.

A woman chasing a man may be the stuff of comedy, but women scorned have left a trail of tragedy over the centuries from Salome to Jean Harlow, the woman who shot the Scarsdale Diet doctor. To avoid both scenarios, Miles advises: "If you're going to propose to a man, you should

Leap Year or not, women have always had the power to propose marriage

make damn sure he's going to accept. A proposal, incidentally, as Miles defines it, is a proposition with honourable intentions of marriage attached. A proposition is — well, what Lady Caroline Lamb reputedly did to Lord Byron when she dubbed him "mad, bad and dangerous to know", and presented him, as Miles gleefully reports, "with a package wrapped up in pink tissue paper containing some of her pubic hair".

The most famous-feminine proposal in recorded history is that of Queen Victoria, who had to propose to Albert because of protocol. "And

although everyone is coy about admitting as much," Miles points out, "it is generally accepted that our present Queen had to propose to Philip, and Princess Anne to Mark Phillips. It's a question of rank, power and protocol: it's always the dominant partner who proposes."

Marriage was originally organized, Miles maintains, to protect property rights, so the concept of the proposal, modest or otherwise, dates back some 7,000 years to the first known settlement of Catal Huyuk in Turkey. "There was no question there that the women were dominant — they were given the state burial,

and their bones were painted with ochre. They were unquestionably the ones who proposed."

Most women in primitive tribes were polyandrous, she says, possessing several husbands or paramours. "The famous Nigerian queen Amina (1560-1610) used to capture cities and commandeer the most handsome youths to be her lovers: disposable drones with whom she would enjoy an interlude of ecstasy and then execute. To this day, in her part of Africa, fortified towns are called Amina's Walls," Miles says with something suspiciously akin to admiration.

Most women, Miles theorizes, prefer to manipulate the man into making the move. "A proposal is not necessarily verbal. Just look at Hardy: how Arabella rolls her eyes at Jude."

Miles's own marriage proposal was extremely modest and conventional, she confesses: her husband, the author and scriptwriter Keith Miles, popped the question outside her Oxford college gates on October 15, 1963. Did he get on his knees? "He didn't even get off his bike," she laughs.

Victoria McKee

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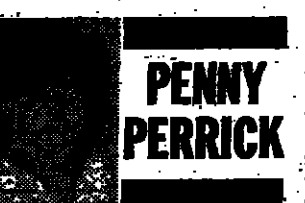
Gracious living for hire

For years I have had the perfect excuse for never being able to play the part of dinner-party hostess: it is that when my ex-husband left he took the table and chairs with him.

This will no longer cut any ice thanks to the hire division of Jongor Limited, a company whose slogan is "when only the best will do" and which will provide you with every element of gracious living on a temporary basis, down to the last damask napkin with full instructions for eight different ways of folding it. These include turning it into a rosebud, a cardinal's hat and a nest.

I wonder how one feels, having spent a whole afternoon folding and pleating napkins into fabric rosebuds, one then sees a dinner guest carefully shaking hers out and dabbing her lipstick round her throat and pulling the ends very tight, I expect.

Shine and gloss are the hallmarks of all that Jongor



offers. There is a whole range of reproduction furniture finished in mahogany veneer, many items of which have sections for bottles and glasses. This range is photographed in the Jongor catalogue in front of bookshelves filled with teal-leather volumes sparkling with gilt lettering. The catalogue doesn't mention whether these are for hire but I like to think they are and that, should one press lightly on the embossed spine of *Frankie*, it too, will swing open to reveal cut-glass decanters full of single malts, like the scene in *High Society*, where Crosby and Sinatra, fortified by hidden liquor, launch into "What a Wonderful Party This Is".

Then there is the Monaco suite in Pecky Pecan Veneers (which sounds good enough to eat) which Jongor says "is ideal for small intimate dinner parties". I don't know about that. The Pecky Pecan is polished to a mirror brightness, which means that every time you cast your eyes modestly down, as you tend to do during a small intimate dinner party to provide the man opposite you with an enchanting view of your dark lashes, you catch a glimpse of the underside of your chin reflected from the table top, and suddenly become aware of your age.

I think I would be more inclined to go for a bigger splash with some of Jongor's amazing accessories: the EPNS Champagne Fountain with gilt decorations would certainly be a talking point, even if the point it stimulated was that everyone wondered why you had put a bird bath in the middle of the table. Then there is a lovely chafing dish,

should you wish to serve something chafed. "For the up-market event, why not use copper?" asks Jongor persuasively, and I shall certainly be giving this some serious thought.

My absolutely favourite item is the Drake Carving Trolley ("will enhance any surroundings") which has a huge domed lid which can swing open to reveal the *pièce de résistance*. For real culinary chic, I think one should raise the dome not on the expected beef Wellington or saddle of lamb but on something very nouvelle cuisine and almost invisible, like a quail's thigh nestled on an artichoke heart.

At the moment, I am resisting Jongor's blandishments because nothing in my wardrobe could live up to such elegance. I wonder if Moss Bros could hire me out a little number which would go beautifully with Pecky Pecan and copper chafing dishes?

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**Compiled by Peter Dear
and Peter Davalle**

VARIATIONS

Maurice Rooves, one of the stars of Scottish Television's new drama series Rockie, beginning on ITV, 9.00pm

TELEVISION CHOICE

● Danny Dawson (played by Manny Rodev, who seems to be in everything coming from north of the border these days) may look like a gangster from a 1940s Hollywood movie but appearances are deceptive. He is a small-time Glasgow bookmaker, trying to hold on to his corner shops in face of competition from racing chains. He drives an old white Jaguar with the number plate WIN IT. This is more an aspiration than a reality. In business, as in life, he is often a loser. Work takes priority over home life and he is a soft touch for a hard luck story. His marriage has broken up and his son Johnny (John Hannah), though offered a partnership in the company, wants to escape from Dad's shadow and do things his way. When the boy is tipped off by a hooded and masked peder- Danny is shocked enough to smell out the fiddle but young Johnny is too stubborn to take his advice. This father-son conflict, wrapped around an ingenious piece of racecourse skulluggery that could have

TELEVISION CHOICE

come out of Dick Francis forms the main theme of the first instalment of *Bookie* (ITV, 9.00pm). Written by a very old television hand, Alan Prior, and shot entirely on Scottish locations, *Bookie* promises to give much pleasure. It has a well-crafted narrative that has pace and coherence and does not make you wonder what on earth is going on; the characters are neatly drawn; and, if the first episode is anything to go by, the show is free of the mindless, knee-in-the-groin violence that disfigures so much "contemporary" drama. It also leaves you wanting more, with two further characters (played by Ian Bannen and Isla Blair) briefly introduced tonight and obviously intended to play a bigger part in later instalments.

Peter Waymark

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

● If I were a seasonalist copywriter and Alan Berrie's *The American Granddaughter* (Radio 4, 8.15pm) were not a radio play but a movie aimed at audiences salivating at the thought of having their withers wrung, the slogan that would be hardest to resist would be something like: "Two women bound together by chains of hate in a house of lies". Don't blame me for this lurid language. Rather blame Alan Berrie for penning a domestic drama that evokes a. Considering the clawing and squawking that goes on between widowed mother (Doreen Hepburn) and spinster daughter (Maggie Shevlin) in their Dublin cockpit, it is amazing that the eponymous visiting granddaughter (Andrea Browne) cannot find anything stronger to say about the acridulous ménage than to yell in exasperation: "Is this just a madhouse, or what?"

Bell (Clarrie mark 2, Fiona Mathieson, died in October last year). Felicity Finch's agricultural student Ruth Pritchard has added at least half a dozen points to the *Archers'* credibility total.

Peter Davalle

[illegible]

● The fact that *The American Granddaughter* has an all-woman cast is as good a reason as any to update my recent comments about some worrying shortcomings on the distaff side of *The Archers* (Radio 4, at 1.40pm and 6.40pm). I'm talking about the duo of Claire Mackenzie Mathieson, died in October last year), Felicity Finch's agricultural student Ruth Pritchard has added at least half a dozen points to the *Archers'* credibility total.

Peter Davalle

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6.35 Open University: Artists and antiquity **6.55** Weather
7.00 Concert: Vivaldi (Obbo
Concerto In D, RV 453;
Heinz Holliger with 1 Music)
Haydn (Cassation in F, H II
20; Linde Consort, under
Linde)
7.30 News bulletin
7.35 Concert (cont'd): Mozart
(Symphony No 12: Academy
of St Martin-in-the-Fields
under Neville Martiner),
Janacek (Tanas Bulba
rhapsody; Philharmonia
under Rattle), Fauré

VHF (medium wave). Stereo on MW/see Radio 1
News on the hour. Sports
News on 8.30 am
4.00 am Colin Berry 8.30
9.30am Steve 7.30 Derek Jameson
5.20 Ken Bruce 11.00 Jimmy
Young 1.00 pm David Jacobs 2.00
Gloria Humphreys 3.30 Adrian
Love 5.00 John Dunn 7.00 Dance
Band 8.00 9.30 Big Band Special
(BBC Big Band, with Les
Gibson) 9.00 Humphrey Lytton
with jazz on record 10.00 The
ABC quiz 10.30 Chorus
Songs 11.00 11.30 12.00 tracks
of 1957 films, including *Gunglitz* at
O.K. Corral) Brian Matthew
1.00 am Steve Madden 3.00-4.00
A Little Night Music

Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields under Marriner

8.30 News bulletin

8.35 The Choir of the Week: Schumann's *Die Weihe* (Fischer-Dieskau, baritone, with Gerald Moore, piano), String Quartet in G minor, D 173 (Aubert Benoit Quartet), Mendelssohn's 3rd Sinfonia (Bavarian Radio Chorus and SO under Sawallisch, with soloists Lucia Popp, Brigitte Fassbaender, Adolf Dallwitz, and Fischer-Dieskau)

9.35 Cello and piano: The Wallfischs (Raphael and Peter) perform Falla's *Melocida e Romancita*, Mendelssohn's 5th piano, and Haydn's Sonata

10.10 Fanny Helwig: the soprano in recordings of arias by

[illegible]

- 10.40** *Fate Trios*: David Butt, with Rose Pope (cello) and Alexander Wright (viola). Haydn (Trios in G, H. XV.75), Marcin (Trios in, 1844) and Anna L. Lomas (Lomas, untitled)
- 11.30** BBC Scottish SO, under Takuo Yusa, with Dong-Sun Chang (violin), John Boyle (Witmer Music), Winietaali (Violin Concerto), Beebe (Symphony No. 4). Interval ending at 12.15. News at 12.15
- 12.15** Tokyo Quartet performs Bartók's Quartet No. 4, and the BBC SO, Op. 74
- 2.00** *Music Mosaic* with Michael Oliver. Includes Richard Mauder and Alan Tyson discussing the history of the manuscript of the Requiem; and Iain Fenlon on the classical music of Palestine (4)
- 2.15** Britten and Schumann: BBC Welsh SO under Bryden Elton, with Tony Christie (soprano). Schumann's Symphony No. 3, and Britten's *Lysistrata* (4)
- 3.45** *Music for a Serene Patrons*: Gabriell Consort



Tracey Chadwell in Radio 3 concert, at 2.45pm

and Players perform Venetian music by Grandi, Monteverdi and others, all dedicated to the Virgin Mary

4.30 George Lloyd Piano Music: Martin Roscoe plays works including *The Lily Last* and *The Grasshopper*, and *The Road through Samarkand*

5.00 Mostly for Pleasure: recorded music selection, presented by Brian Jay

6.25 Organ Music: Iestyn Ellis

Fugue in E flat, BWV 552:
Fugue's A-zoanance; and
the Metamorphose
7.00 News
7.03 Third Ear: Pop artist Peter
Blake talks to Julian
Saville
7.30 Young Hindemith: three of
his one-act operas,
beginning with *Kinder,*
Hoffnung der Frauen (with
Franz Gruberbauer and
Christa Schaubert), **£8.00.
Santa Susanna (with cast
including Helen Donath and
Gisela Gabriel)
Schreckenbach, and at
£4.65 *Das Nusch-Nusch*,
produced by Hans
Stamm, Victor von Haselt,
With Berlin Radio and
under Gard Albrecht.
10.00 Bach/Grove's Debussy
Variations: played by Edith
Vogel (*plano*)
11.00 The Great if the Music
recordings of works by
John Ireland – *Sextet;*
Elegiac Romance; The Land
of the Four Corners and
Prelude; The Forgotten Rite
12.00 News bulletin
12.05 Wolf **£8.95** *Ely Ameling*
(*piano*). With David
Baldwin (*piano*). *Lied vom*
Wilde. Ends at **£2.50****

LW (long wave), (S) Stereo on VHF:
5.55 am Shipping **6.00** News
 Bristling: Weather **6.10**
 Farming Today **6.25** Prayer
 (S)
6.30 Today, incl **6.30, 7.30,**
8.30 News **6.45** Business
 News **6.55, 7.25** Weather
7.00, 8.00 News **7.25, 8.25**
 Sport **7.45** Thought for
 the week
8.25 The Week on 4: Radio 4
 programme trailers,
 presented by Clive Rostin
8.42 Something Wholesale:
 Travel-writer Eric Newby

Book, Today: in the Marinae
8.00 6.57 Weather; Travel
8.00 6.57 News; Britain
8.00 Start the Week: Russell
Harty with guests (r)
10.00 News; Money Box:
presented by Louise Botting
10.30 Morning Story: Emma
Palmer reads William
Palmer's story Emrys
Tudor's Trip to Bristol
10.45 Daily Service
11.00 News; Travel: Down Your
Way: Peter Thomas visits
the Open University
headquarters in Milton
Keynes (r)
11.30 Poetry Please: presented
by Danny Abbot. The readers
are: Segevoye and
Christopher Scott
12.00 News; You and Yours:
presented by Susan Rae
12.25 King Street Junior: School

1.00 **News**: **Home and James** **Groat** (as the headmaster) (2)
12:00 **Weather**
1.40 **The World At One**
1.40 **The Archers** **1.55** **Shipping**
2.00 **News**; **Man's Hour**:
presented by the playwright
Willy Russell in this special
edition, the edition, includes
items on the lifestyle of
travelling salesman; a woman
who goes around the
country teaching a man
to love; and an
interview with **Shirley**
about her views on men
and women. Plus **Deborah**
Kaye reading **John**
Mogkatt's story **Vacant**
Possession
3.00 **News**; **The Mysterious** **Curious**
Crime: **Drugs**,
about a schoolboy who
applies for a job as a
teacher. With **Neville**
Barber as the showman,
and **Julia Ford** as the girl (1)
4.30 **Kaleidoscope**: **Pardon My**
FREQUENCIES: Radio 1 11030kHz
12030kHz/433m; 9080kHz/230m; Radio 1
1560kHz/100m; VHF 92.5m; LBC
1540kHz/100m; World Service
World Service VHF 96.0m/230m

Frerich Michael Billington examines the controversial use of strong language in modern writing, and talks to writers (including Michael Frayn, Christopher Hampton and Pam Gems) about why they use it so freely (7)
5.00 PM 5.55 Shipping Forecast
5.55 Weather
6.00 News; In Financial Report
6.30 Hoax: Clement Freud, Rachel Heyhoe-Fleet and Donald Sinden tell stories and the studio audience have to spot the lie. Hosted

7.00 News bulletin
7.05 The *Top Gun* film is the latest happenings in Ambridge
7.20 The Food Programme: presented by Derek Cooper
7.45 Science Now: all the AAS: A report by Peter from the annual meeting of the American Association for Advancement of Science in Boston (1)
8.15 The American Granddaughter: play by Alan Bennett with a cast headed by Andrea Brooks, Peter Hepburn, and Maggie Shevlin. The choice is Dutchess (2)
9.45 Kaleidoscope: presented tonight by Paul Vaughan. The topics include the Asian Touring Company production of *Priglasenie* won: the film *Sabbate's*

and David Roper's report from Bradford on an inter-racial marriage in the city
10.15 A Book At Bedtime: Confessions of Felix Krull, by Hermann Hesse, trans. Thomas Mann (first publ. Read by Hywel Bennett: 12.30)
10.30 The World Tonight: presented by David Sellis
11.10 The Financial World Tonight
11.30 The World in Pictures: News; weather 12.33
12.30 Shipping Reports
FM 12.30 (cont.)
12.30 For Schools: 1.50 Music 1.50 News 1.50 Let's Move! 1.40 The Kids' Club 1.50 See for Yourself 1.50-3.30
For Schools: 1.50 Listening Corner 2.00 Playtime 2.20 Science Scope 2.30 Poetry 2.45 PM (continued) 11.30 Open Forum 11.30 Open Forum 11.30
12.10 News and Tom Jones 12.10-12.15 Inter-Continental 12.10
12.10 News Night-time: Quality of Sound, with Simon Mayo

Labour attacks benefits policies

Continued from page 1

ideology is making a direct attack on the welfare state."

The change which most concerns Tory MPs is in housing benefits. For a saving of about £500 million, the "tap-ers", or progressive steps, at which people move out of entitlement, are being reduced from six to two.

Labour says that one million people with capital of more than £6,000 will lose the benefit altogether. Another five million with capital of between £3,000 and £6,000 will have their payments reduced.

Mr Robert McCrindle, Conservative MP for Brentwood and Ongar, said yesterday: "My concern is that a great many of those affected are fiercely loyal supporters of the Government. The adverse political effect of this new system will be considerable and I do not think it has been taken wholly on board by the Government."

"When one asks what the Government is getting in return the answer is about £500 million. It may seem a lot of money but in relation to a social security budget of £48,000 million it is small beer. Some of the losers are beginning to see what is likely to happen to them."

In other changes, people who were on supplementary benefit and applied for special single payments to cover items such as a cooker or children's clothing will now have to apply for a loan from the social fund.

However, the fund is providing much less than that currently paid out in single payments. It will also be controlled by a cash-limit. Mr McCrindle said: "Again this could bring political disadvantage for little gain. The difficulty is the cash-limit. What happens if the money runs out two-thirds of the way through the financial year?"

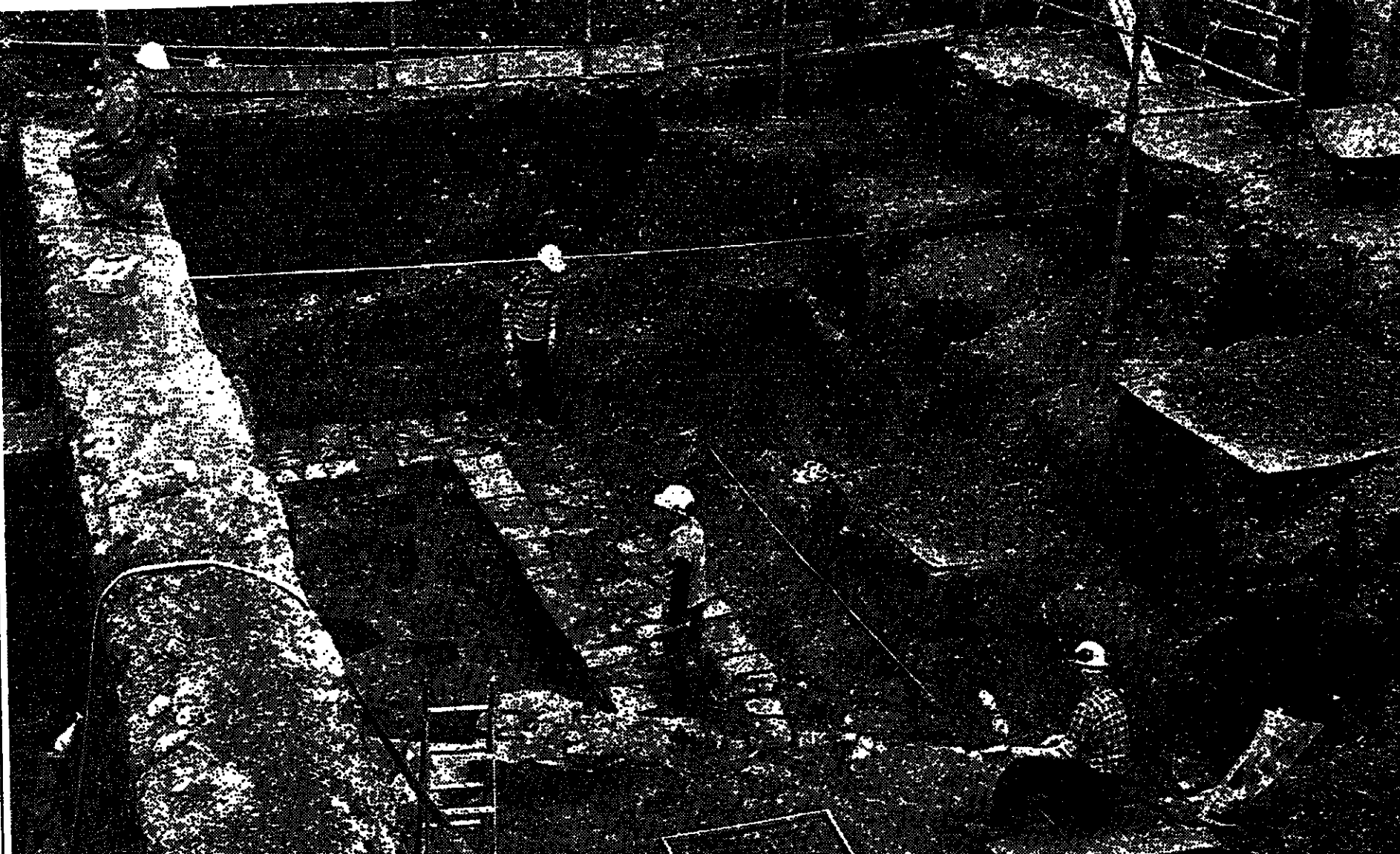
Labour's campaign will be aimed at informing people of the benefits to which they are entitled, and highlighting how many will lose out. Mr Cook said: "Of the six million housing benefit casualties, three-and-a-half million are pensioners, a large proportion of whom vote Tory."

He said: "The Government has backed itself into a corner. In March it will cut taxes. In April it will cut benefits. Those two do not match up. If they can afford to cut taxes, they can afford to maintain the value of welfare benefits."

Mr Cook said in a statement that figures revealed by the Labour Party show a decline in the number of private patients using National Health Service beds.

"Between 1979 and 1986 the number of pay-beds went up from 2,405 to 2,980, an increase of 23 per cent. Yet in the same period the number of private patients using pay-beds annually has dropped from 91,128 to 63,893, a drop of 30 per cent," he said.

Roman amphitheatre clues found amid rubble

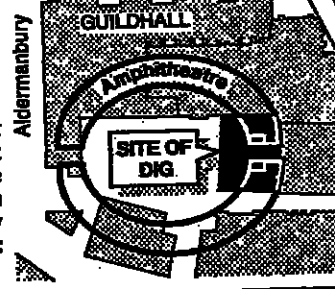


Archaeologists working at what they believe to be the site of London's long-lost Roman amphitheatre near Guildhall. The location of the amphitheatre has baffled the academic world for more than a century. But now the chance discovery by archaeologists from the Museum of London has pinned the site in the shadow of Guildhall. The team of 15 archaeologists now has until the end of March to find more evidence. Mr

Nick Bateman, the site supervisor who is pictured above in the top left corner, said: "You can never be absolutely certain and we will not be drawing any real conclusions until the final reports are written but, at this stage, it looks highly probable that we have found the site of the amphitheatre. When we started working here last July we were not aware in the slightest that it might be the Roman amphitheatre. We knew it was a historic site and we knew it was

Roman but we really did not know what it was. We gradually realized that it was a circular building which left a relatively limited number of options for us and so it seemed likely that it was some kind of arena or amphitheatre. It is not likely that it would have been used for mass public displays by gladiators or of people being savaged to death by animals. But Mr Bateman added that the Romans could have used the arena for military displays and condemned

criminals could have been thrown to wild animals by gladiators. "It is probably from the first or second centuries AD and we are now working to try to find as much as we can about it," he said. He added: "It seems very ironic that we should have found it next to the Guildhall which is the seat of the new administration." The excavation team had been working on the site of the old Guildhall art gallery when they made the find. (Photo: Mark Pepper.)



Memory lapses of Waldheim's fellow officer

Continued from page 1

and said that he had no memory of the man. When I read to him an extract from his interrogation report as it had appeared in *The Times* earlier this month, he replied: "It's funny - I cannot remember this at all. But what if I did interrogate them (the commandos), why not? It's normal. We treated people correctly - cigarettes and tea, that sort of thing."

What Herr Poliza can remember is meeting the young Oberleutnant Waldheim in December, 1943, and, despite lapses of memory, his tale is none the less revealing. He (Waldheim) was, like me, an ordinance officer.

"He had the same job as me and others - there was also an Oberleutnant Krone. I remember. There were 35 personnel working in our section altogether, most of them more junior. It was *Abteilung* (department) IC of *Heeresgruppe* (Army Group) E. We were working together and Waldheim was putting the reports together."

"We were not really intelligence officers - not *Abwehr* (Wehrmacht military intelligence).

genie). We were collecting enemy information."

Did Dr Waldheim interrogate the missing British commandos? "I can't remember if they were questioned by Dr Waldheim," he says. "I don't think he questioned prisoners. I can't remember if I questioned the British. I did question Free Greeks working with British commandos. I was their interrogation officer."

Waldheim read the interrogations afterwards.

"We got an order from the *Heeresgruppe* 'E' that these people (British and Greeks) should be given to the *Sicherheitsdienst* (SD), and we didn't know what happened to them. The prisoners were in Salonika, under the control of the *Geheim Feldpolizei*, where the intelligence officer was a Major Hammer - it was he who ordered the *Geheim Feldpolizei* to give the prisoners to the SD."

"There were several Britons there - I was there at the time but I cannot remember seeing them. We did not really know exactly about what happened to them because there were orders from Hitler to give commandos to the SD and

what happened then - we had an idea, but we didn't know precisely. With the three Greeks, I remember we had a conversation with the *Heeresgruppe* and asked them what they did. We said perhaps the Greeks should not be given to

President Waldheim is accused in a report published today of enabling Russian interpretation and translation services at the United Nations to be transformed into "a major Soviet espionage post" while he was UN Secretary-General. The report, by the Institute for European Defence and Strategic Studies, says the change had been brought about "by means of a little-known but crucial policy change" in hiring language staff. It calls for reform to end misuse of the UN for espionage and disinformation.

the SD because they had been brought to work for the British.

"There was also a British radio operator. We said that he and the Greek soldier he was with should not be given to the SD."

"But later the reply came through to us that the British

radio operator and the Greek soldier should be given to the SD - the other Greeks, too. Maybe Waldheim knew (what was to happen to them). They were all sent. It was not Waldheim (who made the decision). It was not me. It was Hammer."

Major Hammer, Herr Poliza did recall, died after the war.

But did Dr Waldheim not know what was going on in Greece, about the deportation of Jews, about German atrocities in the Balkans?

Herr Poliza was adamant. "You have to realize we did not hold the British commandos ourselves. They were down at Salonika. The *Heeresgruppe* kept coming on to us every day saying, 'Where are they? Have they been given to the SD yet?'"

"It was very much easier to do something (to help prisoners) if you were in the lower ranks. But the *Heeresgruppe* knew all about the commando prisoners. We all thought about it - I tried to get the Greeks out. It was the only idea we could come up with to say they had been forced to work for the British."

position to give orders - neither Waldheim nor me... (he) is not a bad man. He did what he was told. We read about his work, but we could not do anything about it. I knew nothing about it. I knew about the Jews. The deportations (from Salonika) happened before we were there."

When the war ended, Herr Poliza - who had invaded Poland and then France with the Wehrmacht's 26th Infantry Division - found himself vainly trying to set up a German staff headquarters in the Austrian city of Klagenfurt. "I was trying to get home. Waldheim was also there, trying to get home to his wife."

"We were taken to the Pullach camp near Munich. Most of our senior officers were there. We were all interrogated."

Did the Allied interrogators ask about the British commandos? Herr Poliza's memory failed him. Was there any way in which their fate would be revealed? "I don't think so. Perhaps when the SD man who took them away decides to say... if he is still alive."

Letters, page 11

Body of border victim exhumed

Continued from page 1

post to watch a Gaelic football match.

A post mortem was carried out in Northern Ireland at Craigavon Hospital but the family was advised by Mr Aidan Carroll, a Sinn Féin councillor in Armagh, to seek an independent autopsy. The family approached Mr Eugene Crawley, the Deputy Garda Commissioner who has conducted the Republic's inquiry from Monaghan police station, 12 miles from the border.

Mr Sean McAnespie, a brother of the dead man said: "Our family is delighted at how fast our request for the autopsy has been handled by Mr Crawley."

Mrs Eilish McCabe, a sister of the dead man and a Sinn Féin activist, said the request for a second post mortem examination was made last Wednesday.

On Saturday Sinn Féin councillors gave Mr Crawley details of how Mr Aidan McAnespie had been allegedly constantly harassed by security forces.

His family claim that soldiers made death threats to him.

Dr Harrison will give copies of his autopsy report to the McAnespie family and to Mr Crawley. The findings are expected to be made available to Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, before he makes a speech tomorrow in the Dail on Anglo-Irish relations.

Mr Haughey's government will decide whether to give details of the autopsy report to the British government and the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

An Irish Republican Army arms cache has been discovered near Kells, Co Meath.

Hollywood bows to a touch of British class

Continued from page 1

ited LA on a Greyhound bus as an 18-year-old, also delivered a little discourse on the "very good old-fashioned loos" of Windsor Castle. ("You don't flush, you just pull it up from underneath," she said, explaining that they were Victorian contraptions operated by a wire which was pulled up from the floor).

The best weapon of the Yorks, who are promoting a 12-week artistic and commercial jamporee called UK/LA, is the Britannia.

She sits beneath a rainy sky in the drab docklands of Long Beach, dwarfed by the mass of the old battleship Missouri alongside. But, with her gleaming new paintwork and huge ensigns and royal arms, she radiates a class you can't buy in Beverly Hills - the place with the world's highest density of Rolls Royce owners.

The prize for the lucky few is an invitation on board and the chance to see the Royal Marine band best retreat. Sailors on the Missouri gaped down onto the rain-swept

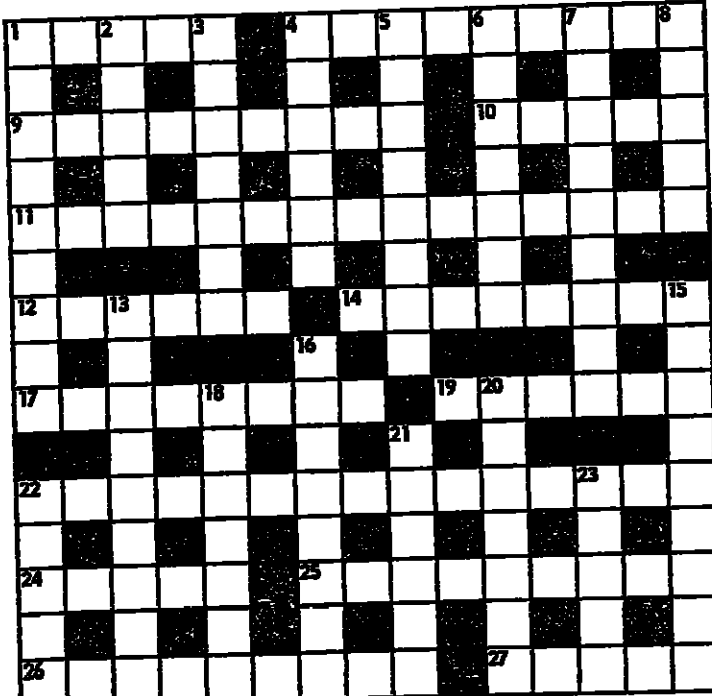
dockside on Saturday as the little band marched up and down in the puddles and hammered out "Land of Hope and Glory".

The Duke gets down to business on the yacht today as host of the first of two seminars aimed at attracting Californian investment to Britain. Mr Norman Fowler follows up on Tuesday.

But first there was the obligatory celebrity bash, a gala dinner in a hotel last night, where tickets cost between \$500 (£290) and \$1,000, in aid of UK/LA and the LA library. Mr Roger Moore officiated and Mr Burt Bacharach entertained. Miss Joan Collins, Ms Zsa Zsa Gabor, Mr Michael York and others were present - in other words, not quite the highest royalty.

"Charles and Di would bring out the Warren Beatty and Barbra Streisand," sniffed the society columnist for the *LA Times*. "I mean, they are going to the opening of a supermarket in Arcadia. If it were Di, people would go to the opening of her purse."

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,604



- ACROSS**
- 1 Torment for the King at Agincourt (5).
 - 4 Said to avoid offering a reservation (9).
 - 9 Student represents any birth as a tortuous proceeding (9).
 - 10 Prune that is a sweet one (5).
 - 11 Old county fellows charge after the chase (15).
 - 12 Deft attempt, throwing away the King, to finesse (6).
 - 14 One egg, or an omelette fit for Kings (8).
 - 17 Evidence of a sudden stroke? (8).
 - 19 Drink strong beer after food (6).
 - 22 Recognition of clever dicks getting into the act (15).
 - 25 Foe for marking the occasion (4-5).
 - 26 Engineer has quarter in garrison mess (9).
 - 27 "..." to the "..." (5) (*Hamlet*).
- DOWN**
- 1 Become friendly: card players do (4,5).
 - 2 Bird first mentioned in tale by Defoe (5).
 - 3 City is the first to toast a member of the royal house (7).
 - 4 Cope with husband (6).
 - 5 Glass vessel (8).
 - 6 Piece of zinc is ordered for this cutter (7).
 - 7 Sixth sense apparent in education (9).
 - 8 Letters on English Xmas fare (5).
 - 13 Slight noise made opening safe with money in it (9).
 - 15 When day is done tops up at the club (3-4).
 - 16 Meets unexpectedly in school on March 15 (8).
 - 18 This drink sounds a deliberate trap (4-5).
 - 20 Uses examples freely in theories (7).
 - 21 After first quarter, lender becomes a paper maker (6).
 - 22 A Spanish comrade of note in the past (5).
 - 23 Scent clear of notice in the twilight (5).

Concise crossword, page 9

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

- PORT SPOKE**
By Philip Howard
- ABATIS**
a. A sleep mortar
b. A wooden parapet
c. A Roman sundial
- TERREPLEIN**
a. A Roman shield wall
b. A sloping bank
c. A French glacier
- ASCENSE**
a. Scaling ladders
b. Flaming arrows
c. Staircases
- REDAN**
a. A pointed fieldwork
b. A counterscarp revetment
c. A counter-mine

Answers on page 16, column 1

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 17,603 will appear next Saturday

WEATHER

bring sunny spells, hail and snow showers to almost all areas. Some heavy snow is likely, mainly near coasts exposed to the north. Winds may touch storm-force at times in the north and east, with blizzards in places. Regions sheltered by high ground to the north could be mainly dry and fairly sunny. Frosts likely in the evening. Outlook: staying cold and wintry.

ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Algeria	18	SE	100	
Algiers	18	SE	100	
Amman	12	SE	100	
Athens	14	SE	100	
Bahra	21	SE	100	
Bangkok	20	SE	100	
Beirut	15	SE	100	
Bombay	24	SE	100	
Buenos Aires	18	SE	100	
Calcutta	24	SE	100	
Cairo	18	SE	100	
Chennai	24	SE	100	
Columbo	24	SE	100	
Dhaka	24	SE	100	
Dubai	24	SE	100	
Guangzhou	24	SE	100	
Hong Kong	24	SE	100	
Jaipur	24	SE	100	
Kolkata	24	SE	100	
London	10	SE	100	
Los Angeles	18	SE	100	
Madras	24	SE	100	
Mumbai	24	SE	100	
New Delhi	24	SE	100	
Paris	10	SE	100	
Rangoon	24	SE	100	
Shanghai	24	SE	100	
Singapore	24	SE	100	
Taipei	24	SE	100	
Tokyo	10	SE	100	
Yokohama	10	SE	100	

AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10	SE	100	
Manchester	10	SE	100	
Birmingham	10	SE	100	
Cardiff	10	SE	100	
Edinburgh	10	SE	100	
Glasgow	10	SE	100	
Liverpool	10	SE	100	
Nottingham	10	SE	100	
Sheffield	10	SE	100	
Southampton	10	SE	100	
Stirling	10	SE	100	
Wolverhampton	10	SE	100	

Times are GMT

Strong and bitterly cold winds from the north will

bring sunny spells, hail and snow showers to almost all areas. Some heavy snow is likely, mainly near coasts exposed to the north. Winds may touch storm-force at times in the north and east, with blizzards in places. Regions sheltered by high ground to the north could be mainly dry and fairly sunny. Frosts likely in the evening. Outlook: staying cold and wintry.

AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10	SE	100	
Manchester	10	SE	100	
Birmingham	10	SE	100	
Cardiff	10	SE	100	
Edinburgh	10	SE	100	
Glasgow	10	SE	100	
Liverpool	10	SE	100	
Nottingham	10	SE	100	
Sheffield	10	SE	100	
Southampton	10	SE	100	
Stirling	10	SE	100	
Wolverhampton	10	SE	100	

THE POUND

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10	SE	100	
Manchester	10	SE	100	
Birmingham	10	SE	100	
Cardiff	10	SE	100	
Edinburgh	10	SE	100	
Glasgow	10	SE	100	
Liverpool	10	SE	100	
Nottingham	10	SE	100	
Sheffield	10	SE	100	
Southampton	10	SE	100	
Stirling	10	SE	100	
Wolverhampton	10	SE	100	

Times are GMT

AM



LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 5C (45F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 4C (39F). Humidity: 6 pm, 55 per cent. Wind: SE to E, 10 to 15 mph. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 1.2 in. Bar: mean sea level, 6 pm, 1005.5 mbars, falling.

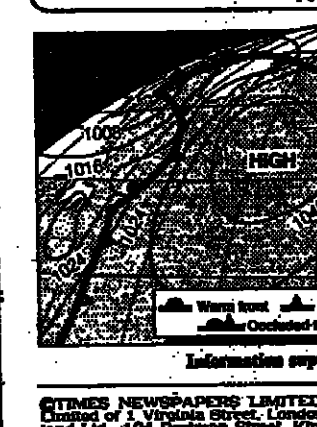
HIGHEST & LOWEST

Sunday: Highest day temp: Leuchars, Fife, 12C (54F); lowest day temp: Arvi Green, Kent, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Dabrig, Highlands, and Isles of Scilly, 0.1 in; highest sunshine: Hume Bay, Kent, 5.5 hr.

LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 6.10 pm to 6.16 am
Bristol 6.10 pm to 6.25 am
Edinburgh 6.15 pm to 6.24 am
Manchester 6.15 pm to 6.28 am
Penzance 6.23 pm to 6.35 am

NOON TODAY



PM



MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 5C (45F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 4C (39F). Humidity: 6 pm, 55 per cent. Wind: SE to E, 10 to 15 mph. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 1.2 in. Bar: mean sea level, 6 pm, 1005.5 mbars, falling.

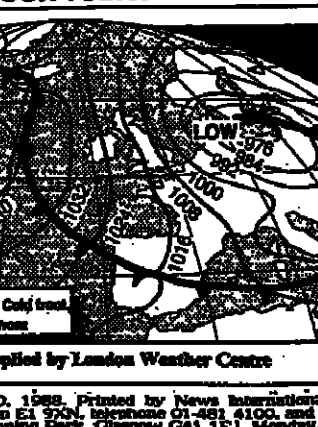
YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; s, sun.

Full Moon March 3

Star time: 6.48 am
Moon sets: 6.04 am
Sun sets: 5.40 pm
Moon rises: 2.04 pm

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by London Weather Centre

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PART 2

MONDAY FEBRUARY 29 1988

THE TIMES

BUSINESS AND FINANCE
SPORT

19-23
28-32

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

(Change on week)
FT 30 Share
1423.7 (+41.1)
FT-SE 100
1766.5 (+36.7)
Bargains
23002 (26331)
USM (Datastream)
145.54 (+0.26)

THE POUND

(Change on week)
US dollar
1.7735 (+0.0225)
W German mark
2.9928 (+0.0085)
Trade-weighted
74.7 (+0.4)

US NOTEBOOK

Fed policy
success
clouded by
dollar fall

From Maxwell Newton
New York

The US appears to be settling down into a mode of modest economic growth, low inflation, declining commodity prices and falling interest rates. This was the objective of Federal Reserve policy in 1987 and so far, it appears to be working.

In the background, however, the dollar is continuing to decline from its February peak. This is bound to be a matter of concern to the central bank which has just announced, through Mr Manuel Johnson, the deputy chairman, that the value of the dollar, along with commodity prices and the shape of the yield curve, is one of the three criteria that will be used to evaluate policy.

The dollar peaked against the leading creditor currencies around February 12. Since then it has fallen 1.3 per cent against the mark, 2.1 per cent against sterling, 1.2 per cent against the Swiss franc and 2.1 per cent against the yen.

Tight rein

The decline is bound to be of concern. Thankfully, the Federal Reserve has not continued the wild expansion of the cash base of the system that occurred in January, when the Adjusted Monetary Base (bank reserves plus currency) was pushed up to an horrendous rate of 16 per cent a year.

Whatever new ideas the Fed may be talking about, it has so far this month kept a reasonably tight rein on the growth of the monetary base.

Such prudence is necessary until there is more evidence that personal consumption spending has truly been brought under control. The revised GNP numbers for the fourth quarter, published on Thursday, were unsettling in that they estimated a slightly smaller than previously reported decline in personal consumption spending and a slightly smaller than previously reported rise in stocks.

Serious blunder

When one looks at such trends, it is not hard to understand the developing Japanese consensus that says the yen is going to rise above 120 to the dollar this year.

It may turn out that, despite all the talk on new ways of evaluating monetary policy, the Fed may have made a serious blunder in January which may take some time to rectify.

Many believe the Fed is going to be very liberal with cash in this election year. But in truth, its actions are limited by the value of the dollar. If the dollar falls back again, worldwide stock prices will once again collapse and we could be in an even worse mess.

Last week, Mr Alan Greenspan, the Fed's chairman, went out of his way to rebuke an Assistant Secretary of the US Treasury, who had been gauche enough to write to the Fed governors complaining that Fed policy is "too tight". Mr Beryl Sprinkel, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, is one of such leading critics.

"Too tight," is still a distant goal, as Americans continue to find ways and means of prolonging their five-year-old romance with over-consumption.

Analysis	20	Foreign Exch	22
Cit-Edged	20	Inv Trusts	22
City Diary	21	Money Mkts	22
Econ View	21	Share Prices	23

***** RK

Race is on for
oil licences
Electricity sell-off fuels
interest in exploration

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Britain's oil and gas exploration companies are expected to join in a rush for a new round of onshore oil and gas exploration licences to be offered by the Department of Energy within the next few days.

The licences will be offered in all the known oil and gas bearing onshore areas in the country, in the second formal round of licensing offered by the Government. Previously onshore oil exploration licences were offered on an *ad hoc* basis until a formal licensing system was introduced two years ago.

Mr Peter Morrison, the Minister of State for the Department of Energy, is anxious to maintain the impetus in oil and gas exploration, and to create new jobs in the oil support industries. The main interest will be focused on Hampshire and Dorset, Lincolnshire and East Yorkshire, the Lancashire coast near Blackpool, and the Firth of Forth.

Interest in acquiring new onshore acreage is high among the oil and gas companies because of the privatization of the electricity industry, and because British Gas will be in the market for gas supplies in the next decade.

Gas discoveries onshore could be directly tied into

small power generation plants, which could sell their output to the 12 area electricity boards. These are about to be privatized individually and will be allowed to set up their own generating subsidiaries.

Further impetus to new onshore exploration for gas will be given next year, when the EEC is expected to lift its objection to natural gas being used to drive electricity generating plant - at present an EEC directive limits it to premium fuel uses such as domestic and industrial heating. Companies will be scrambling to tie up as much onshore acreage as possible.

New types of gas turbine generating systems have been developed in the past few years. These could be installed within 12 months and could provide 200 megawatts of power from natural gas. The gas is burned in high-efficiency turbines and the waste exhaust heat is also used to provide steam for separate turbines which can add to the power output.

At present the network of gas turbine stations, which the Central Electricity Generating Board has on standby to meet sudden surges in demand, burns aviation fuel in generating units driven by turbines of

the same type as used in Concorde. They were used only briefly during the miners' strike and have seldom been fired up since built in the early 1970s.

They can come into operation quickly, but are expensive to run, and the massive amount of heat they produce is wasted. However, it is possible they could be converted to run on gas and new equipment installed to harness the waste heat.

Up to now the oil companies have had to offer all gas found to British Gas. However, the privatization of the electricity industry, and the requirement that a now-privatized British Gas offer its pipeline network on a common carrier basis to any company wishing to transport gas through the system, mean many small deposits of oil and gas in onshore areas could become commercially attractive.

The new round of exploration licences will test BP's commitment to expand its exploration portfolio in Britain, now that it has acquired Britoil. BP is expected to apply for a large proportion of the acreage on offer this week, as will British Gas, now free to return to oil and gas exploration since it was privatized.

Banks seek £1.5 billion
tax relief on bad debts

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

The Government stands to lose about £1.5 billion in tax from the big four clearing banks if the banks receive full tax relief on the £3.5 billion of bad debt provisions they made last year.

The clearers have started negotiations with the Inland Revenue on the potential tax relief.

All four English clearing banks have assumed that they will be given tax relief on the provisions which severely depressed their year-end results, announced in the past two weeks. If the Revenue does not agree to grant tax relief, the banks' profits will suffer a further setback.

Lloyds and Midland have most to gain from the relief. Each made specific provisions of more than £1 billion against

massive exposures in Latin America. Midland reported a pre-tax loss of £305 million, while Lloyds announced £248 million loss for the year.

Specific provisions, made against particular and identifiable loans, are eligible for tax relief unlike general provisions which are a prudential reserve against bad loans.

The Revenue's attitude to relief on specific provisions is believed to have hardened in recent months. Banks, three years ago, had almost no specific provisions but these are now several times larger than general provisions. The Revenue may argue that there is too much at stake to give tax relief on the full amount of the specific provisions.

The banks argue that they were originally encouraged to

lend to Latin American countries by the Government, so the authorities have an obligation to help now that the loans have gone bad. They also point out that during the 1970s they paid large tax bills, largely because of soaring profits from the Latin American loans.

Uncertainty about the Revenue's attitude has also dampened the enthusiasm of British banks for the new Mexico bonds-for-debt scheme, the results of which will be announced this week.

Under the scheme, banks were able to swap their outstanding debt at a discount for new bonds backed by a US Treasury guarantee. But British banks are not sure how the Revenue would view loans swapped at a discount.

Berrill 'victim of campaign'

By Colin Campbell

Sir Kenneth Berrill, who on Friday was denied his wish to be reappointed for another term as the £120,000-a-year chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, is expected to make his feelings public this week about the manner in which he was replaced.

Sir Kenneth, aged 67, a former stockbroker and head of the Government think tank, was largely responsible for drawing up the rulebook of proper City practices. He was appointed chairman of SIB in 1985 and was known to have wanted to see his work transformed from theory to practice.

Though Sir Kenneth was



Sir Kenneth: wish denied

expected to be back at his desk today overseeing the aftermath of last week's rush by City firms to submit applications for authorization under the Financial Services Act, he learned only on Friday that he

would be replaced by Mr David Walker, a director of the Bank of England, from May 31. Mr Walker will serve a four-year term as SIB chairman.

Friday's joint communiqué from the Department of Trade and Industry and the Bank of England acknowledged "the formidable contribution made by Sir Kenneth Berrill in leadership and application in the establishment of the SIB and the new supervisory system required under the Financial Services Act."

However, Sir Kenneth appears to have been a victim of a whispering campaign arising from growing disquiet at what some alleged was the excessive legalism of the SIB.

USM REVIEW

Optometrics ready to celebrate

By Carol Leonard

Mr Frank Denton, the chairman of Optometrics, is planning a party in August. For it is then that the Leeds-born businessman, whose Yorkshire accent still rings out incongruously after 30 years in America, makes his last payment to Corning Glass Works - from which he bought Boston-based Optometrics via a management buyout, for \$540,000 (£305,000) in 1981.

"We've got two more instalments to go, and then we're going to have one hell of a celebration," he says. "Including interest, it means we will have paid back \$850,000 in total. It has been a big burden. We've told Corning that we're not going to mail them the last cheque, they've got to come and collect it - and they've agreed. They must be as pleased about it as we are."

Quoted on the USM since 1984 - it was one of the first American companies to be quoted - Optometrics designs, manufactures and markets precise optical components and opto-mechanical instruments for the medical, military, industrial and laser markets.

Its products include a multiplexer, which can quadruple signals sent through standard fibre-optic cables by wavelength separation, and mono-

chromators, which have uses ranging from quality control for Coca Cola to testing whether or not pregnant women have had rubella or have Aids antibodies.

Given the complex nature of most of Optometrics' products, Mr Denton is understandably proud of his company's reputation for quality. Its notice boards are crammed with letters from happy customers.

"Sometimes it works to our disadvantage because they don't have to

renew things as often," the softly-spoken Mr Denton says. The company's order book, however, shows no signs of any serious consequences. At the half-year stage, the American order book was up 86 per cent on the previous year and its British division - based in Leeds, of course - was showing a 15 per cent rise.

"Our order books have been strong on both sides," Mr Denton says. "In the UK, we have been inundated with work in the second half - we took in orders there worth £96,000 this month alone."

The company, which employs 35 staff in Boston and the same in Leeds, is due to

report its year-end figures during the third week of June.

"We made pre-tax profits of \$80,000 last year and the City was talking about a recovery," says Mr Denton. "I think they will find that that has continued."

He is angered, however, by people who criticize American companies for floating on the USM. "We are not dishonest, we are not trying to rip people off," he says. "We simply needed money so that our business could grow. The package we were offered in the US was lousy - it would have been extremely expensive and we would have lost control. And it is wrong to lump us all together just because we are American - we are all quite different companies."

"We had a few problems when we first floated but we have sorted them out now. I'm not saying that we're going to be an IBM, but we've got a good little business going here now."

Before Optometrics was floated on the USM it looked into the possibility of turning itself into a British company. "Even though it would have cost a lot of money in lawyers' fees and suchlike, we were thinking about it," Mr Denton says. "But the Stock Exchange asked why we were bothering, and told us to go on as we were."

Trawlers take up challenge of south Atlantic



Kenneth MacKenzie of Seaboard Offshore and the trawler Mount Kent (Photograph: Ted Ditchburn)

Rich catch of jobs in Falklands

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

More and more trawler operators are making a dash for the Falkland Islands, creating work for British shipyards and jobs for fishermen in the process.

One deep-water trawler, the *Hill Cove*, which was modernized and converted on Humber, left last week for the Falklands. It will join the *Lord Shackleton* - the first modernized trawler to go out to the south Atlantic from Britain.

Two more trawlers are being refurbished on the Tyne as part of a Falklands joint fishing venture involving the

Scottish company Seaboard Offshore, of Tain.

Hughes Food Group of Lincolnshire, one of Britain's half dozen deep-water trawler operators, may also send trawlers to the Falklands, where the island's government is looking to develop fully an independent fishing industry.

The *Hill Cove* has been refurbished for £750,000 by Humber Ship Repairs, of Immingham, South Humberside. It has provided work for 200 people over several months and sailed with a crew of about 50 fishermen.

It will be operated by

Stanmarr, of Port Stanley which is owned jointly by Falklands-based Stanley Fisheries and Marr (Falklands) of Hull.

Mr Andrew How, Marr's general manager, said: "We see *Hill Cove* as the forerunner of a fleet of specifically designed, multi-purpose fishing vessels to be based permanently in the Falklands."

Stanley Fisheries is also Seaboard's partner in a venture in which the Scottish company is investing more than £1 million. Two trawlers are being refurbished at Tyne Dock Engineering, renamed

Mount Kent and Mount Challenger after Falklands mountains. The work is expected to be finished next month. The vessels will provide jobs for about 80 British crew.

Subsequently, Seaboard is likely to increase its Falklands operation, according to Mr Kenneth MacKenzie, the managing director.

The *Lord Shackleton*, which has been in the south Atlantic since October, is part of a venture involving Stanley Fisheries, Boyd Line of Hull and Witte (UK), part of the Swedish group of the same name.

'Levy' for
accounting
authority

By Colin Campbell

A six-point plan aimed at improving accounting standards calls for the standard-setting authority to be adequately financed - if necessary by a levy by the Stock Exchange or the Department of Trade and Industry on all companies.

Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant, submitted the plan ahead of today's deadline to Sir Ronald Dearing's Accounting Standards Review Committee. The accountant envisages standards being established by a full-time independent body against the backdrop of a framework of accounting principles.

To help enforce standards, Coopers & Lybrand proposes that directors be required to explain non-compliance with standards, and that an independent body be set up to judge on departures from standards by listed companies. Such a body could come under the wing of the Stock Exchange or the Bank of England.

Adequate financial resources could be obtained via a levy, by the Government via taxation, and/or through grants to the accounting profession from the Institutes.

The absence of a framework of accounting principles has in the past led to the growth of an avoidance industry, the firm submits. It argues that the standard-setting body should be freed from the influence of individual interests or preferences.

LBS urges Lawson to make
£3.5bn tax cut in Budget

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

Tax cuts totalling £3.5 billion and a small surplus on the public sector borrowing requirement are recommended for the Budget by the London Business School, the forecasting group which has been closest to Government thinking in recent years.

In its latest *Economic Outlook* the LBS says Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, can stick to his target of a PSBR equivalent to 1 per cent of national income, but should exclude privatization proceeds in calculating it.

Deducting £5 billion of asset sales would leave a small surplus of about £0.5 billion. The LBS has become more cautious since its last review

and now believes that demand in the economy has been too high. It says the Chancellor should squeeze fiscal policy in the Budget to counteract overheating in the economy.

The LBS has raised its forecast for growth in 1988 to 3 per cent, because the increase in GDP in the final

Economic View... page 21

quarter has raised the starting point. Inflation is expected to rise from 4.1 per cent to 4.5 per cent, and the current account deficit to increase from £2.4 billion to £4.1 billion.

In another assessment released over the weekend the

Liverpool Group calls for tax cuts of £5 billion, including the abolition of higher rates of income tax. It says the Chancellor should replace the present tax structure with a flat rate of 34 per cent, representing a basic rate of 25 per cent plus 9 per cent National Insurance Contributions. Tax relief on pensions and mortgages should be limited to the standard rate and pension funds should gradually lose their tax immunity on investment income and lump sums.

The Liverpool team expects growth of 3 per cent this year, inflation falling to 2.8 per cent and a current account deficit of £5.5 billion.

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ANALYSIS

Rules must change to avoid another Blue Circle fiasco

Many a stockbroker and merchant banker is thanking his lucky stars not to have been in the team advising Blue Circle, which thought it had taken over Birmid Qualcast and then discovered it had not.

Red faces all around, especially at Hoare Govett, the broker, whose counting was not quite up to scratch.

The relatively discreet way the City is coping with the fiasco is less a reflection of the gentlemanly values that may still exist there, but more an indication that mistakes like these are not unusual.

The pressure of working exceptionally long hours for the eight weeks or so of a bid, combined with the need to declare a result only four hours after the doors of the receiving bank close, makes the system vulnerable.

The narrow margin of error made the difference between Birmid remaining independent or becoming a subsidiary of Blue Circle. But the mistake might never have been discovered. Once past the winning post it is not usual to continue verifying paperwork.

The Takeover Panel is keeping its cards close to its chest before pronouncing. But it is unlikely to reprimand Blue Circle's broker, on the grounds that it has been adequately humiliated.

Amazingly, the Takeover Code does not require acceptances submitted to the receiving banker or purchases through the company's broker to be cross-checked either by each other or by a third party.

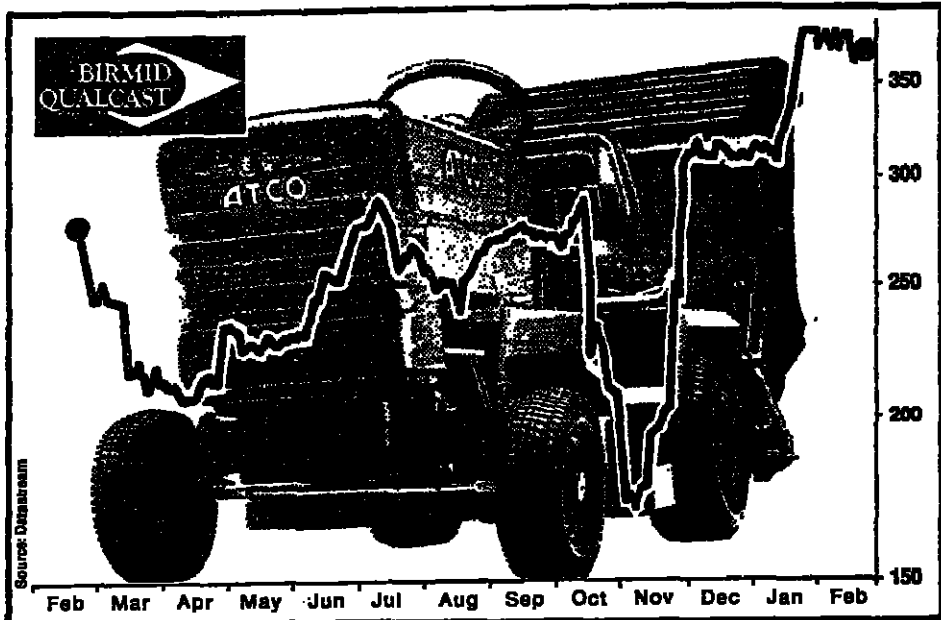
Nor indeed, need they be counted from start to finish in one go. The four-hour requirement for declaration of a result makes this impossible.

The very high level of purchases, including cash purchases through regional brokers, increased the paperwork. Baring Brothers, Blue Circle's merchant bank, asked for an extension given the closeness of the result, but this could not be accommodated within the existing rules.

The affair does little to help the City's already tarnished reputation. Blame has yet to be apportioned although the main culprit appears to be the Takeover Code. A lacuna there allowed Blue Circle to declare victory prematurely.

Royal London Mutual's arbitrating of the offer - selling in the market to Blue Circle at 380p and buying back an identical number of shares more than 10p lower - is acceptable and recognized practice.

Royal London's stated mot-



Countdown to a failed bid

December 7, 1987: Blue Circle Industries, Britain's largest cement manufacturer, launches a 300p a share bid for Birmid Qualcast, the cookers, boiler and lawnmowers group. This values the company at £217 million. Birmid, having side-stepped a bid from Hepworth Ceramic last March, rejects it.

January 26: Blue Circle raises its offer by 25 per cent to £275 million and is again rebuffed.

February 13: The bid closes. Blue Circle claims victory with 50.01 per cent of Birmid's shares. Purchases account for about 43 per cent with a further 7 per cent in acceptances. Birmid does not concede defeat and draws the Takeover Panel's attention to the close margin of victory.

February 16: A recount is ordered by Blue Circle. The Panel requests a report on the bid's closing moments.

February 17: A counting discrepancy of 44,775 shares is discovered by Blue Circle's brokers, Hoare Govett. Verification of purchases and acceptances continues.

February 19: An error is revealed amongst the acceptances involving the arbitrage of 338,181 shares. Blue Circle concedes defeat and is left with a 43.85 per cent holding.

Tuesday, February 14, 1988: Blue Circle is free to bid again.

ive was to maximize profits for its shareholders. The matching of the same odd number of shares was for the innocent, although incredible, reason of making the deal easier to process internally.

Royal London's actions did not make the bid fail, they merely allowed Blue Circle to claim success mistakenly.

The first purchase remained on the share register and was mistaken for the second transaction. This was not, however, covered by valid documentation due to the tardy Stock Exchange settlement system.

The Takeover Code allows incomplete acceptances to be matched against the share register which need be no less than 10 days old. Under this rule, the second batch of shares was wrongly accepted as valid.

The rules need to be changed, certainly for close bids and perhaps for all contested bids. There should be time to check all title to documents.

Wider issues are also revealed, particularly the appropriate role in hotly contested bids of City advisers and institutional shareholders.

Birmid's advisers, SG Warburg, the merchant bank, and Cazenove, the broker, are scarcely novices at this game.

They were so moved by the arguments put forward by Mr Peter Prateley, the chairman of Birmid, that they spent more than £3 million of their own money buying just over 1 per cent of Birmid's shares.

Despite having known of their client's undoubted virtues for some time, it was only when the shares might have fallen into Blue Circle's clutches that the advisers decided to put their money where their mouths were.

Protected by the Takeover Code's purchase limit for the bidder, they paid a halfpenny above the offer price for shares which are now showing a book loss of more than £130,000.

There is clearly no question of indemnities being paid for such services, and their action has been condoned by the Takeover Panel. Yet it would seem more proper if advisers were not allowed to make such altruistic gestures during a bid. These shares made all the difference between success and failure for Birmid.

As for the ammunition used

to seduce shareholders into one camp or other, there is an imbalance between the Birmid profit forecast and Hoare Govett's 260p estimate of the share price if the bid lapsed.

Profit forecasts are carefully audited while assumptions of share price movements are a matter of opinion. The latter was also qualified to exclude the effect of a sizeable shareholder. This has kept the shares up at 365p. Yet both forecasts were very influential.

And what about institutions who declare their intentions to back one side during a bid, and indeed those who change their minds?

One might have thought that one such, Barclays de Zoete Wedd Investment Management, would have sympathized with Blue Circle's expansion plans. Its chairman used to be a non-executive director of the company.

Institutional investors should make decisions on the fundamentals and not be swayed by the consequences of being seen to tip the balance. The purchasing campaign required Blue Circle to report its progress daily.

Indeed, three canny inst-

itutions have had it all their own way. Not wanting to be seen to accept Blue Circle's offer, but recognizing the attractiveness of a cash offer, they sold 512,000 Birmid shares to Blue Circle last Monday at 380p when the bid had wrongly been declared unconditional. They have not asked for the bargains to be cancelled due to being struck on false information.

But what about the companies themselves? Blue Circle must be feeling rather foolish as hostile bids are a new departure for it.

To have a high profile move into a new area fail so spectacularly will not do much to boost morale internally, nor will it enhance the company's reputation. Blue Circle is itself thought to be vulnerable to a bid and was recently the subject of a unsuccessful dawn raid.

Its earnings will be enhanced by consolidating its 43.9 per cent shareholding in Birmid. Testing the water with a £110 million minority investment could be worse. Within a year Blue Circle is free to bid again.

Blue Circle may well seek board representation. The companies are due to meet soon. To make the most of this opportunity to learn more about its chosen field of expansion, Blue Circle's management may, however, need to adopt a more personable style. Otherwise the implicit personality clashes from bid days could be accentuated.

As for Birmid, it has not abandoned the view that the bid lacks logic and that it is better off independent. It can continue as before, developing strong brand names. With gearing at 16 per cent and an inflated share price about 40 per cent above its peers, the opportunities are legion.

To issue paper could put Blue Circle on the spot. If it wants to bid again next year, it would be taking a poison pill if it prevented Birmid developing freely. Thus Blue Circle may have to see its holding diluted.

Blue Circle has, however, the ultimate sanction, if Birmid behaves irresponsibly. Proxy votes are rarely mustered fast enough so Blue Circle could block proposals it disliked at a general meeting.

Birmid's victory is, ironically, little more than a pyrrhic one given Blue Circle's huge shareholding. Birmid would be well advised, therefore, carefully to savour every day of independence until St Valentine's Day next year.

Alexandra Jackson

GILT-EDGED

Budget offers hope of tax cuts without tears

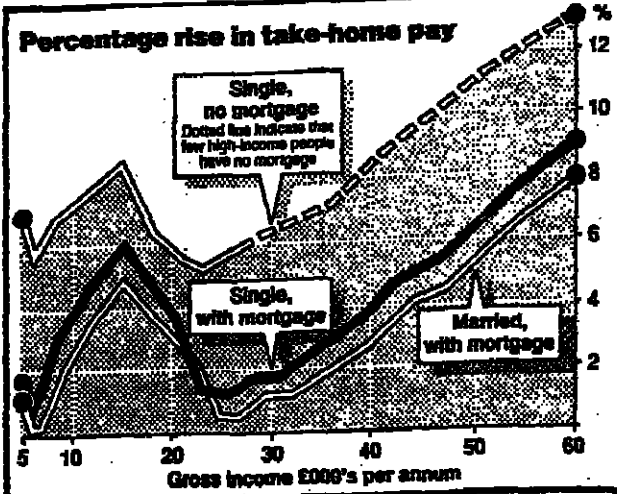
We are about to see a major tax-cutting and reforming Budget, yet one leaving a substantial surplus on the PSBR. The gilt-edged investor will need to consider the implications very carefully.

The market is naturally concerned about the scale of possible tax cuts and the effect on spending. The National Institute has argued against any income tax reductions at all in the Budget on March 15. Yet the general expectation is for a give-away of about £3 billion, even more than the cut that helped fuel the consumer boom last summer.

The Budget should, however, be seen against the background of growth in the economy. This tends to tighten fiscal policy automatically, restraining demand and reducing the PSBR. There are two main ways in which this happens. The growth in real incomes increases the number of people paying tax, and the number of those in the higher brackets. This effect alone has been enough to neutralize the effect of Budget tax cuts over the last few years, so that income tax revenues have kept pace with personal incomes. Public expenditure restraint has also helped to hold back demand, allowing more room for the growth of private expenditure.

To offset this fiscal drag, the Chancellor would need to make tax cuts of £5 billion a year (relative to an inflation-indexed tax system), more than 1 per cent of GDP. This figure assumes that output is growing at its trend rate of 3 to 3½ per cent. In other words, a £5 billion tax cut now makes a neutral Budget. A smaller tax cut means that fiscal policy tightens and the PSBR falls. This is essentially what has been happening over the last few years.

This progressive fiscal tightening has not been sufficient to offset the effect of rising private spending and borrowing. Consumers' expenditure has been much more buoyant than expected, due to a falling saving ratio: spending has moved ahead even faster than incomes, stimu-



lated by capital gains in the housing and (until recently) equity markets. A continuation of this trend cannot be ruled out, but is most unlikely. Unless there is another large fall in household saving, a further modest tightening of fiscal policy will be enough to slow the economy down to a sustainable pace.

The Budget will almost certainly tighten fiscal policy, because the Chancellor's room for manoeuvre on interest rates is very limited, and he will want to preserve as much of this as he can. Last summer, the strength of sterling effectively prevented him from raising base rates above 10 per cent. Reinforced by a fragile stock market, this still represents a constraint.

With that constraint in place, fiscal policy must be used to limit the risk of a rapid rise in consumption. But that still allows a net tax cut of £3 billion, a significant tightening of fiscal policy relative to the neutral £5 billion net give-away.

A Budget without any net tax reduction would mean a strong contraction in fiscal policy and tilt the balance of risk towards recession.

A sizeable tax cut is necessary to smooth the way for a reform of personal taxation, with all the associated supply-side benefits. But there are plenty of ways of raising revenue to keep down the net cost. For example, the rate of RPI inflation is currently

running well below its trend rate of 4 to 4½ per cent, allowing the Chancellor to double (or in some cases perhaps, triple) index-specific duties without pushing inflation above trend.

Phasing tax changes over two or three years, to take advantage of the continuing effect of fiscal drag, makes a radical reform feasible within a £3 billion Budget. A 20p basic rate seems quite attainable on this time scale, and would bring major labour market benefits.

So much cash at the Chancellor's disposal means another large PSBR surplus is in prospect for 1988-89. But, in contrast to this year, there should be less domestic need for high base rates, easing the upward pressure on sterling and the reserves.

The fear of large tax cuts and a consequent run on sterling will tend to restrain the market before Budget day. Even then, it will be hard to think of a £3 billion Budget as restrictive. The Treasury's revenue and PSBR projections will be very cautious, and in view of previous disappointments some investors may still be wary of the negative funding argument. But time will tell, and as the economy begins to slow and the supply situation is confirmed, the Budget will be seen as constructive, even for the gilt market.

Peter Spencer
Credit Suisse First Boston

Japanese car phone plants for UK

From David Watts
Tokyo

Two Japanese groups are to start the manufacture of car telephones in Britain.

Matsumita group is to establish a company in Thatcham, Berkshire, capitalised at £3.5 million. It will

make 30,000 units a year. Called Matsumita Communication Industrial Co, it will be 49 per cent owned by Matsushita Electric and 51 per cent by Matsushita Communication. It will employ 80, including five Japanese, when production starts in May.

In the second venture, NEC Technology UK is to start making car telephones at its Telford, Shropshire, plant. It is expected to produce about 3,000 units a month from July or August. The company already produces 8,000 video cassette recorders and 2,000 printers a month at Telford.

Concern at rate of Scottish takeovers

By Kerry Gill

Worries over the large number of takeovers of Scottish companies are expressed in an interim report of the Standing Commission on the Scottish Economy.

The industrial vitality of the economy is being used by takeovers, too much external ownership and centralization, concludes the report which was presented to the second Scottish economic conference in Glasgow.

The conference was attended by about 250 delegates and was organized by the commission which was established in 1986.

Among its recommendations for the revival of the Scottish economy, the commission calls for a change in Britain's mergers policy to safeguard certain Scottish companies from takeovers.

Outside companies should be made to demonstrate that takeover bids are in the regional interest and undertakings made during takeover battles should be legally enforceable.

The commission says that the Scottish Development Agency and Scottish financial institutions should look into a "white knights fund" to defend companies from hostile predators.

More companies should be encouraged to establish their headquarters in Scotland.

Regional interests, it suggests, could be protected by either a Scottish mergers commission or, at the very least, a Scottish committee of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The conference also called for further decentralization of the British trade policy. The whisky industry, for instance, ought to become the responsibility of the Scottish Office rather than the Department of Trade and Industry.

Mr John Mackay, the Scottish Conservative Party's chief executive, who attended the conference as an observer, said the commission's views were "pretty predictable".

Most of its policies, he said, were out of date, for instance, the call for more intervention which had been tried but had failed.

Mr Mackay said the commission should be addressing itself to more positive goals such as encouraging a single union deal for the planned Ford plant at Dundee, and helping to set up the Health Care International private hospital at Clydebank which would provide 4,000 jobs.

Although the commission regarded itself as broad-based, said Mr Mackay, it was largely made up of trade unionists and members of the convention of Scottish local authorities.

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interims: Microfilm Reprographics, Polytype, Sinclair Goldsmith Holdings. Final: Fisons (expected March 1), Pickwick Group (expected March 1), Royal Trust Government Securities Fund, Williams Holdings. TOMORROW - Interims: Minerals Oils and Resources Shares Fund, Scotiabank, Space Planning. Final: Allen Cooper Holdings, Fleming Mercantile Investment Trust, Galbraith & Hansberger, Johnsons Paints, Radius, Record Holdings, STC, Second Market Investment Co, Task Force Group, Templeton, Unidare, Unilever. WEDNESDAY - Interims: Consolidated Gold Fields, Galliford, Global Group, Joss Holdings, Kleinwort Development Fund, Lawtex, Medim-

ster, Shandwick. Final: Commercial Union Assurance, T Cowie, John Crowther, General Accident Fire & Life Assurance, International Thomson Organisation, Mount Charlotte Investments, Pacer Systems. THURSDAY - Interims: Consolidated Plantations Berhad, Macro 4. Final: BBA Group, Cadbury Schweppes, Edinburgh Financial Trust, Fife Indmar, Lex Service, Quental, Ratcliffe (Great Bridge), Royal Dutch Petroleum, "Shell" Transport & Trading, Tozer Kemsley & Millbourn, WPP Group, Wickes. FRIDAY - Interims: Kleinwort Benson International Income Bond Fund, Polytechnic Electronics. Final: TF & JH Braime Holdings, Greenwich Communications, Sale Tilkey.

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Long-term pay deals gain popularity with companies

By Roland Radd

Despite Ford's difficulty in securing a long-term pay agreement, two-year deals are proving increasingly popular with both workers and managers, according to a report this week.

The Industrial Relations Services, the independent pay research group, shows that long-term pay deals are well established, comprising 10 per cent of all settlements.

Drawing on its own analysis of long-term agreements and on a new publication by the CBI on employers' views of two or three-year pay deals, the report points strongly to a link between the agreements and new working practices.

Seventy per cent of all long-term agreements discussed by IRS show the companies have included clauses introducing flexibility, organizational change or restructuring.

In contrast to the changes introduced through these agreements, the CBI indicates that only 11 per cent of manufacturing pay agreements had similar flexibility clauses.

The long-term agreements provide benefits for both sides of industry. The CBI sample of employer respondents cited industrial relations stability as an important advantage, while only one in six employees thought the cost of the agreement was too much, believing

the benefits from higher pay increases outweighed the changes.

Ninety per cent of employers with experience of more than one long-term deal made it clear that they wished to repeat the experience.

IRS studied a long-term pay agreement at Dowty Rotol as an example of the changes that can be introduced through such a deal. The agreement paved the way for job flexibility between manual and staff workers. Pay increases over the first year of the deal were staged.

When the consequences of implementing job flexibility are utmost in both manage-

ment and employees' minds, a single rise in a year can provide a company with a degree of stability and forward planning.

Other types of changes, such as new conditions of service and annualized hours, can be introduced through the agreements in return for basic pay increases.

However, contrary to the Government's view that long-term pay agreements might encourage a move away from the annual pay rise expectations, the majority of two-year deals have two annual rises.

Industrial Relations Review and Report, IRS, 18-20 Highbury Place, London N5 1QP, by subscription.

'World trade keeps up growth'

By Colin Narborough

The world stock market crash appears to have caused no immediate damage to international trade, which grew faster in the final quarter of last year than in the previous three, according to a report published by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade today.

It paints a cautiously upbeat picture for this year, and expects world trade in goods to grow at least as rapidly as the 4 per cent volume rise seen last year.

But the Geneva-based trade body is still worried about the negative impact the type of turbulence triggered by Black Monday could have, and makes its growth forecast conditional upon there being no further major upheaval in financial markets or a serious recession in the United States.

Mr Richard Blackhurst, GATT's chief economist, commented that given the more favourable prospects for trade, "the risk of a recession in 1988 is smaller."

The annual survey shows world trade in goods growing at 4 per cent in volume terms last year, the second best performance this decade, up from 3.5 per cent in 1986.

The expected growth rate for this year is 0.5 per cent higher than GATT predicted only last September.

In value terms, world trade surged 15.5 per cent last year to a record \$2,450 billion (\$1.41 trillion). Though largely due to the falling dollar and its impact on oil and commodity prices, it also reflected the significantly higher trade volume.

Manufactured goods led the growth in volume trade last year, rising by 5 per cent after only 3.5 per cent growth the previous year.

Trade in farm goods recovered to show a 4 per cent growth from a 1 per cent decline in 1986.

Despite slower economic growth, the leading industrialized countries' demand for imports provided the strongest stimulus for the expansion in trade.

The developing nations, whose debt problems remain unresolved, were also able to import more last year.

Senior officials from the Paris-based Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development agreed at the weekend that pessimism over the outlook for world growth after Black Monday was excessive and that forecasts would have to be revised upward.

ECONOMIC VIEW

Forecasters now differ to agree about growth

When the Chancellor presents his new forecast for the economy a fortnight tomorrow, it is likely to look rather more attractive than the sober assessment which accompanied the autumn statement.

Forecasters ranging from the Thatcher sceptics at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research to the Thatcher enthusiasts at the Liverpool group, and including the pragmatic London Business School, are all agreed that the economy will grow by 3 per cent this year.

Although this is well below last year's 4.8 per cent, it is higher than the Treasury's autumn forecast of only 2.5 per cent. It also happens to be the same as last year's Budget forecast for 1987.

Since the forecasts were completed, the Central Statistical Office has announced its preliminary estimate of gross domestic product in the final quarter of last year, which showed a bigger increase than expected. And in recent years this preliminary estimate has subsequently been revised up by an average of 0.2 per cent. By fixing a higher starting point, this can only tend to increase the likely growth between last year and this year as a whole.

However, the increase in the growth rate—taking one year against another—is a little misleading about the immediate prospect. Because growth has been so rapid in the latter part of last year, even if there were to be no further advance at all from the present level, average GDP this year would be more than 2 per cent above the average for last year.

The LBS, for instance, whose latest forecast—like Liverpool's—is published today, has actually reduced the expected growth between the fourth quarter of last year and the fourth quarter this year from 2.8 per cent last autumn to 2.2 per cent.

The main uncertainty facing the forecasters is how much of their income people will save. Rising pay increases and the prospect of tax cuts in the Budget suggest that disposable income will grow faster this year than last.

But savings are unlikely to be as low as they were in 1987. In the third quarter, the saving ratio dropped as low as 5 per cent and, for the first time since 1959, the personal sector was in overall deficit.

Although other countries such as the US and Sweden save less, this is very low for Britain by historical standards and suggests some recovery this year. Both the fall in the stock market and the possibility of higher inflation may encourage people to save more in order to rebuild some of their wealth. LBS therefore expects the savings ratio to rise from 6.5 per cent last year to 8.1 per cent this year, and the National Institute also forecasts a rise, though a slightly smaller one.

Of the other components of demand,

investment should grow faster than last year. Industry is operating near to capacity, suggesting a need for further capital spending, while high profits offer the means to finance it.

But the contribution from net exports will fall further. The position facing Britain's exporters is the exact reverse of what it was a year ago. Demand in the world economy was then picking up as the fall in the oil price eventually began to work through, while British industry enjoyed the benefit of a big fall in the exchange rate.

Subsequently, demand has stagnated worldwide, especially in Europe, while the pound has risen 25 per cent against the dollar and nearly 10 per cent on average. With consumer demand still relatively buoyant, imports will go on growing rapidly, resulting in a widening balance of payments deficit.

The striking thing about the latest forecasts is how similar they are, bearing in mind the very different views of the economy which the three forecasting groups hold. Perhaps we are seeing a

Economic forecasts for UK 1988

	NIESR	LBS	Liverpool
GDP (%)	2.9	3.0	3.0
Inflation (%)	4.5	4.5	2.8
Unemployment (m)	2.3	2.6	2.3
Balance of payments (£bn)	-4.2	-4.1	-5.5

move in the middle ground of economic forecasting, as we have seen in politics.

The Liverpool group, as usual, is more optimistic about inflation, expecting a fall this year, while the National Institute and LBS both expect prices to accelerate slightly from 4.1 per cent to 4.5 per cent. But the Merseyside forecasters are the least sanguine about the balance of payments, expecting a deficit of £5.5 billion, compared with the £4.2 billion or so expected by both the other two.

On unemployment, Liverpool and the National Institute are in startling agreement that there will be a further large fall to 2.3 million, even if according to the Institute this has more to do with tighter benefits administration than higher demand for labour. LBS expects a more modest drop to 2.6 million.

It is only when we come to economic prescription that the gap begins to widen. While the Institute wants no tax cuts at all, Liverpool believes the Chancellor can "give away" £5 billion with prudence.

The Business School sits in the middle, concerned about "over-heating" in the economy but acknowledging the micro-economic benefits of tax reform. This is more like the spectrum of opinion we are used to.

Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

Cigarette tax 'threat to jobs'

By Our Industrial Editor

Tobacco manufacturers are concerned that the Chancellor will increase cigarette taxation to a point where cheap imports could seize a bigger share of the British market and threaten jobs.

British-made cigarettes sell at about £1.54 for 20, but cheap imports, mostly from West Germany, have been undercutting by up to 25p.

A leap in cheap imports could pose a threat to smaller retailers, like newsagents, because the bulk of the imports are sold through supermarket outlets.

There would also be a threat to tobacco manufacturing jobs with the possibility of plant closures, according to the Tobacco Advisory Council. It estimates that in the three years ended 1987, about 6,000 jobs have been shed.

Imports have soared from a negligible share of the market in 1983, to 10 per cent by last year's Budget, before dropping back to about 9.5 per cent.

British manufacturers fear a substantial price increase would lead to more cigarette smokers switching to cheap brands. Since more than half of Britain's 15 million cigarette smokers are among the less well off, this would bolster the trend, it is argued.

Overall the cigarette market declined last year by about 1 per cent, compared with 2 per cent in most other years of the decade. Pipe tobacco sales are also sliding, although there has been some improvement in cigar sales.

CBI urges scrapping GMT 'to aid British business'

By John Spicer
Employment Affairs Correspondent

The leadership of the Confederation of British Industry is hoping that when British Summer Time is reintroduced on March 27, Britain will never again go back to Greenwich Mean Time. It says that clocks in Britain should be synchronized with those in the rest of the European Economic Community.

The CBI is particularly concerned that for 11 months of the year British businessmen lose up to four hours a day when doing business with customers—and even their own companies—in Europe.

Sir David Nickson, the president of the CBI, is leading the call, although a recent survey of his members showed that they preferred to keep things as they are. Sir David said: "As closer links with Europe are planned for 1992, how can we continue to work by a different time?"

Mr Lionel Altman, chairman and chief executive of Equity & General, the insurance company, takes up the call in CBI News. Mr Altman writes: "We get to work an hour after our Continental cousins, and go to lunch an hour after they have gone for their mid-day break. They are back at their desks as we are going out to lunch, and they go home an hour before us."

Mr Altman says he would like to see Double British Summer Time reintroduced. He points out that Britain had it in the Second World War when production was a question of survival.

The Home Office is already seeking the views of interested bodies.



Sir David Nickson: leading CBI call for synchronization

'Wide investor interest' in Vosper

By Colin Campbell

Vosper Thornycroft, the shipbuilding group born out of an £18.5 million management buy-out from the state-owned British Shipbuilders in November 1985, is attracting wide investor interest ahead of its Stock Exchange listing on March 17.

The group's Stock Exchange debut will come after the placing of 25 per cent of the shares with an indicated dividend yield of about 7 per cent, valued between two and three times.

Vosper Thornycroft, which

unlike many world shipbuilding companies, has remained in profit for the past 20 years, is likely to be capitalized at £52 million.

It will come to the market on a prospective price-earnings ratio of about eight.

The group, which builds ships for the Royal and foreign navies at its two shipyards in Southampton and Portsmouth, boasts net cash balances of £30 million, and a current order book of £200 million, of which an estimated

£45 million relates to non-shipbuilding activities.

The Ministry of Defence, the group's most important single customer, accounted for 40 per cent of its £90.7 million turnover last year.

Events in the Gulf have led to a high level of interest by Middle East governments, and 34 per cent of last year's turnover was associated with exports.

Mr Peter Usher, the managing director of Vosper Thornycroft, says an order for three patrol boats, worth £20 mil-

lion, has recently been signed with a Middle East government, and a Ministry of Defence order has recently been secured to complete nine coastal training craft for the Royal Navy Reserve and the Royal Maritime Auxiliary Services.

Vosper Thornycroft plans to expand its non-shipbuilding activities. Patience Gordon, broker to the issue, says approximately 200 fund managers have had investment meetings with Vosper Thornycroft.

Leading role for Thomas

When Ladbroke sold its British holiday centre and catering interests to Mecca Leisure for £25 million in December, no one was more disappointed than David Thomas. Not because, as managing director of Ladbroke's hotels, entertainment and retail catering divisions he had lost part of his empire, but because he had hoped to buy them himself.

Thomas, aged 43, has just joined Third Market minnow Leading Leisure—he officially becomes a main board director next month—and tells me that he had made an offer for the division, but was out-bid.

"My offer was just a little below Mecca's," he says. His disappointment was such that, after 13 years with Ladbroke, he left to join forces with Barry Mullin and Roger Gibby, founders of Leading Leisure, and has been appointed chairman of its leisure and gaming subsidiary. The position places him in charge of some 65 betting shops, casinos, hotels, pubs, discotheques and bingo halls, as well as catering. A chartered accountant by profession, Thomas's first project will be to rebuild Shanklin pier, which was destroyed in the October hurricane, and develop a 170-acre site on the Isle of Wight as an up-market, all-year-round holiday village.

"We've got deals going on all over the place, and bags of money," he says, adding that the company has its sights set on a full stock market listing "in the course".

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Anti-nuptial contracts

The ladies of Smith New Court are putting to excellent use the tradition of being able to throw their hats to the wind in a leap year and propose to the man of their choice. The hats of SNC have been wanted that they will fall game today in a drive to raise money for the Wishing Well Appeal in aid of Great Ormond Street children's hospital. There will be a penalty of £1 for every

proposal of marriage received and rejected—even if the excuse is already being married. And for those opportunists who say yes, a fee of £5 must be paid. They may also, however, have to live with the consequences. If organizers are, I hear, confident that they will receive sizeable donations from every man—lest anyone think that they alone failed to receive a proposal.

Winning ways

What value research surveys? The Institutional Investor magazine search for the 1988 All-British Research Team reveals that Howard Coates, now in effective charge of Barclays de Zoete Wedd's equity effort, is in equal third place in the chemicals sector. His colleague, Jimmy

Price, secured the number two slot, but was narrowly pipped for the number one rating by David Ingles, of Morgan Grenfell Securities. Coates, although a recognized past expert in the field, has not, I hear, been actively following the sector for 18 months. He admits that he rarely talks to clients. He certainly has no time for written research. Perhaps his claim to "maintain an active interest in the sector" is telegraphic. It certainly makes one wonder about the validity of such surveys, where the same names keep appearing at the top of the league table—perhaps institutions do not stop to think whether they are still getting a good service from their favourite analyst, or merely did so at one time.

A detective called to a City office to investigate a missing defendant asked the director: "Can you describe him?" "Yes," said the director. "He was 5ft 7in tall and 220,000 short."

Snaps decision

Further tales about the happy gourmet delights of life at Britoil under Sir Philip Shelbourne... He is, I am told, addicted to ginger biscuits. On his arrival at the company, six years ago, he apparently informed the office services manager that he liked a particular brand of ginger biscuit with his tea. Despite hunting high and low, from Fortnum & Mason to Harrods, the hapless manager failed to locate a supplier. But, ever-resourceful, he finally tracked down their manufacturer in Glasgow, only to discover that it had gone bust. There was nothing else for it. Sir Philip organized a ginger biscuit tasting among his staff at which no fewer than eight different brands were produced. The winning entry, procured by a secretary, came from a delicatessen in Brighton. So, without further ado, Shelbourne's chauffeur was promptly despatched to the south coast resort. Oh, happy days...

Trade minister Alan Clark, who went to Southampton last week to see off a consignment of 1,100 Jaguar cars for the US market, has, I hear, the makings of his own Jaguar collection. The proud owner of a pre-war Jaguar SS100, which he bought second-hand in 1947, Clark, who celebrates his 60th birthday in April, says he still drives it "with some vigour". He also owns a Jaguar XK120 which he bought new a few years later. "I believe these cars should be used, not stuck in museums," he says.

Carol Leonard

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Industry 'should have say in deciding key policies'

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Key policy changes by Government should be preceded by a mutual understanding with industry, the Engineering Employers Federation (EEF) has suggested.

The EEF cites electricity prices, power generation and the future of the aerospace and electronics industries as examples of such changes.

In the EEF annual review for 1987, out today, Dr James McFarlane, the EEF's director general, says these examples "illustrate the futility of supposing that sensible decisions can be reached without a pretty clear mutual understanding between Government and industry."

He adds: "We recognize that certain far-reaching decisions can only be taken by Government, or its agents, and we want to be sure that, when they are taken, the consequential effects on our industry have been fully understood and wisely assessed."

The EEF has been campaigning for a clear industrial strategy for Britain and Dr McFarlane complained that the concept had been "willfully misinterpreted." The EEF did not want to

see a return to planning agreements or a situation where politicians or civil servants sought to tell companies what to do, he said.

Underlining the importance of the industry, he pointed out that engineering accounted directly for almost 10 per cent of the gross domestic product, employed 2 million people and provided about 30 per cent of all exports of goods and services.

A successful engineering industry underpinned everything else, he claimed, because most service industries relied very largely on engineering innovation and products.

As 1987 progressed, engineering had shown a welcome improvement, he went on, but added: "Glad, confident mornings are slow to return, and nobody can be surprised by this in a world of twitchy stock markets and unstable currencies."

"To those who live in the real economy, it is rather more than an irritation to see well-laid plans put at risk by financial events that few could foresee or counteract."

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Sterling index compared with 1975 was up at 74.7 (day's range 74.6-74.7).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates for February 26	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
New York	1.7700-1.7740	1.7740	0.38-0.39	0.43-0.44
Singapore	2.0110-2.0120	2.0120	0.43-0.44	0.48-0.49
Amsterdam	3.3550-3.3620	3.3580	1.4-1.5	1.4-1.5
Brussels	32.40-32.60	32.50	1.4-1.5	1.4-1.5
Copenhagen	11.1170-11.1230	11.1200	1.4-1.5	1.4-1.5
Dublin	1.1217-1.1244	1.1230	1.4-1.5	1.4-1.5
Frankfurt	2.0850-2.0920	2.0880	1.4-1.5	1.4-1.5
London	24.32-24.52	24.40	1.4-1.5	1.4-1.5
Madrid	201.54-202.15	201.77	1.4-1.5	1.4-1.5
Osaka	220.17-220.87	220.50	1.4-1.5	1.4-1.5
Paris	10.1150-10.1210	10.1180	1.4-1.5	1.4-1.5
Stockholm	10.6500-10.6560	10.6530	1.4-1.5	1.4-1.5
Tokyo	227.02-227.61	227.30	1.4-1.5	1.4-1.5
Zurich	2.4500-2.4560	2.4530	1.4-1.5	1.4-1.5

Premiums = pr. Discount = ds.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.5755-1.5770	1.5760	1.4-1.5	1.4-1.5
Japan	2.0110-2.0120	2.0120	0.43-0.44	0.48-0.49
Malaysia	2.2540-2.2560	2.2550	1.4-1.5	1.4-1.5
Netherlands	1.3900-1.3915	1.3905	1.4-1.5	1.4-1.5
Sweden	1.2920-1.2935	1.2925	1.4-1.5	1.4-1.5
Switzerland	1.4800-1.4815	1.4805	1.4-1.5	1.4-1.5
West Germany	3.3550-3.3620	3.3580	1.4-1.5	1.4-1.5

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and ECU.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Currency	7 day	1 month	3 month	6 month
Dollar	6.5-6.6	6.5-6.6	6.5-6.6	6.5-6.6
Mark	6.5-6.6	6.5-6.6	6.5-6.6	6.5-6.6
Sterling	6.5-6.6	6.5-6.6	6.5-6.6	6.5-6.6

French Franc: 7.1-7.2 1/2-7.3 1/2 7.4-7.5 7.6-7.7

Swiss Franc: 4.1-4.2 4.3-4.4 4.5-4.6 4.7-4.8

Yen: 4.1-4.2 4.3-4.4 4.5-4.6 4.7-4.8

Local Authority Deposits (%)

1 month	8.5-8.6	1 month	8.5-8.6	3 month	8.5-8.6
6 month	8.5-8.6	9 month	8.5-8.6	12 month	8.5-8.6

Local Authority Bonds (%)

1 month	8.5-8.6	1 month	8.5-8.6	3 month	8.5-8.6
6 month	8.5-8.6	9 month	8.5-8.6	12 month	8.5-8.6

Apple: \$431.00

Age rate: \$3.1000

Age rate: \$3.1000

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UNLISTED SECURITIES

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	P/E
14.200 Hella Motoren	14.20	0.00	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20
14.200 Hella Motoren	14.20	0.00	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20
14.200 Hella Motoren	14.20	0.00	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20
14.200 Hella Motoren	14.20	0.00	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20
14.200 Hella Motoren	14.20	0.00	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20
14.200 Hella Motoren	14.20	0.00	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20
14.200 Hella Motoren	14.20	0.00	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20
14.200 Hella Motoren	14.20	0.00	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20
14.200 Hella Motoren	14.20	0.00	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20
14.200 Hella Motoren	14.20	0.00	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20	14.20

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	P/E
40.700 Atlantic	40.70	0.00	40.70	40.70	40.70	40.70	40.70	40.70
40.700 Atlantic	40.70	0.00	40.70	40.70	40.70	40.70	40.70	40.70
40.700 Atlantic	40.70	0.00	40.70	40.70	40.70	40.70	40.70	40.70
40.700 Atlantic	40.70	0.00	40.70	40.70	40.70	40.70	40.70	40.70
40.700 Atlantic	40.70	0.00	40.70	40.70	40.70	40.70	40.70	40.70
40.700 Atlantic	40.70	0.00	40.70	40.70	40.70	40.70	40.70	40.70
40.700 Atlantic	40.70	0.00	40.70	40.70	40.70	40.70	40.70	40.70
40.700 Atlantic	40.70	0.00	40.70	40.70	40.70	40.70	40.70	40.70
40.700 Atlantic	40.70	0.00	40.70	40.70	40.70	40.70	40.70	40.70

THIRD MARKET

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	P/E
4.0000000000000000	4.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
4.0000000000000000	4.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
4.0000000000000000	4.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
4.0000000000000000	4.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
4.0000000000000000	4.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
4.0000000000000000	4.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
4.0000000000000000	4.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
4.0000000000000000	4.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
4.0000000000000000	4.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
4.0000000000000000	4.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00

GOLD

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	P/E
4.0000000000000000	4.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
4.0000000000000000	4.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
4.0000000000000000	4.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
4.0000000000000000	4.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
4.0000000000000000	4.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
4.0000000000000000	4.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
4.0000000000000000	4.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
4.0000000000000000	4.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
4.0000000000000000	4.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
4.0000000000000000	4.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00

CBI criticizes copyright Bill

By Our Industrial Editor

Proposed changes to the design copyright laws could stifle British industrial innovation and bring in a "pirate

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices. (na) denotes Alpha Stocks.

Portfolio
— PLUS NEW —
Accumulator
© Times Newspapers Limited

DAILY DIVIDEND	£4,000
Claims required for 52 points	
ACCUMULATOR	£88,000
Claims better than 52 points	
Claimants should ring 0254-53272	

TOBACCO					
6,424.00	547	430	-48	21.0	45 1/2
31.50	Carroll	133	-3		
1,207.25	Postmaster "100	407	-71	11.2	25 1/2

* Ex dividend a Ex all b "forecast dividend a Interest payment passed f Price at suspension b Dividend as yield exclude a special payment at Pre-emptor Ex coupon Dividend earnings a Ex other f Ex rights a Ex split share split Tax-free .. No significant date

70-09	Joe Montano	51	+2	1.4	27	11.0
70-10	Sam Allen	348	0	2.5	5.3	17.5
70-11	Calvin	103	0	5.5	3.5	20.7
70-12	John Thompson	873	++	0	0	0
71-01	Clayton	571	++	0	0	0
71-02	Clayton	565	-6	6.0	3.0	20.4
71-03	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
71-04	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
71-05	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
71-06	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
71-07	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
71-08	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
71-09	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
71-10	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
71-11	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
71-12	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
72-01	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
72-02	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
72-03	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
72-04	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
72-05	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
72-06	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
72-07	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
72-08	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
72-09	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
72-10	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
72-11	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
72-12	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
73-01	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
73-02	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
73-03	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
73-04	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
73-05	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
73-06	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
73-07	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
73-08	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
73-09	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
73-10	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
73-11	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
73-12	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
74-01	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
74-02	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
74-03	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
74-04	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
74-05	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
74-06	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
74-07	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
74-08	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
74-09	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
74-10	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
74-11	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
74-12	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
75-01	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
75-02	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
75-03	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
75-04	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
75-05	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
75-06	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
75-07	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
75-08	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
75-09	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
75-10	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
75-11	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0
75-12	Clayton	574	++	0	0	0

1,076.7m	Remittance pay	244	-	-	2.5	0.0	18.7
7.0m	Insurance	131	++	++	-	-	-
1,000.0m	Smart Clothes	87	++	++	-	-	-
25.5m	T & S Stone	142	++	2.9	1.9	30.1	-
7.0m	Tobacco & Stems	250	-	-	4.1	35.2	-
47.8m	Tire Rack	143	-	-	-	-	-
32.0m	Tire Products	182	-	6.5	3.4	127.1	-
32.0m	Underwear	120	-	3.4	2.8	38.2	-
70.4m	Vinyl	173	-	1.7	3.7	21.3	-
380.0m	Ward White	259	++	2.1	2.1	21.3	-
14.0m	Wicks	259	++	1.5	2.1	21.3	-
21.0m	Wicks	259	++	1.5	2.1	21.3	-
50.0m	Wicks Office	717	-	4.8	2.5	77.3	-
10.0m	Wicks	95	-	4.2	4.7	11.3	-
1,222.6m	Wapomarm (net)	284	++	11.8	4.1	-	-

ELECTRICALS

1,572.50	Group	67	+1	20	33.12	2
42.50	BITR (pt)	271	+16	123	4.5	1
9,984.00	Bentley (C-9)	18	-			2
167.50	Bank (Wm)	440	+37	162	37.34	1
25.00	Barron	18	-	5.3	4.5	1
25.00	Barron Fund	365	-			1
29.30	Barratt (H)	136	+4	1	0.9	20
3,000.00	Baron Transport	800	-	22.8	5.5	52
24.50	Bayview (Charm)	294	-	1.5	4.8	20
7,750.00	Bayer Bank	110	+5	5.1	4.6	11
589.00	Beacom PLC (an)	202	+23	7.4	37	1
5,471.75	Beckman (pt)	22	-	18.5	40	12
19.50	Beckman	45	+3	1.9	42.96	1
37.10	Beckman	253	-	6.5	5	1
74.50	Beckman	53	+3	2.7	8.1	7
220.00	Beckman	195	-8	11.8	59	9

[illegible]

329.00	Ampco	144	-2	...
108.00	Ann Energy	67	-3	...
---	Atlantic Resources	87	-1	...
---	Aut Oil & Gas	35	-1	...
3,345.00	Avco	8	7 1/2	...
20.00	Do Ship	7	-1 1/2	...
21.00	Dr Barno	485	...	51.5
5,501.00	British Gas (sat)	134	+0 3/4	8.9
---	Br Petroleum (sat)	3,655	...	77.1
251.25	Steel (sat)	11.9
---	Bryson	64	-1	...
850.00	Burroughs (sat)	490	+6	21.2
777.20	Calor Gas	543	-2	15.1
15.00	Canary Capital	103	+1	3.8
67.00	Century	185	...	5.1
42.00	Chromalene	37
174.00	Cycle	14	-2	...

TOBACCO					
6,424.00	547	430	-48	21.0	45 1/2
31.50	Carroll	133	-3		
1,207.25	Postmaster "100	407	-71	11.2	25 1/2

* Ex dividend a Ex all b "forecast dividend a Interest payment passed f Price at suspension b Dividend as yield exclude a special payment at Pre-emptor Ex coupon Dividend earnings a Ex other f Ex rights a Ex split share split Tax-free .. No significant date

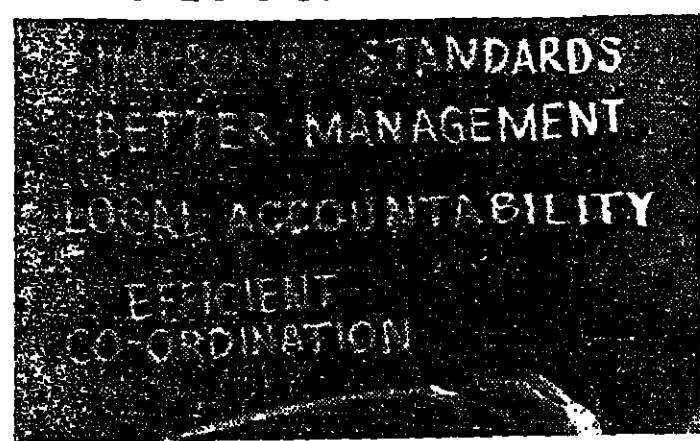
01-481 1066

EDUCATIONAL

01-481 1066

POSTS

CHIEF EDUCATION ADVISER



EDUCATION FROM SCRATCH

Wandsworth is developing plans for the transfer of education from IEA. The Government's clear intention to abolish the IEA by April 1990 gives us the opportunity to seek to raise standards and arrest underachievement.

Full local consultation and policy discussion will be necessary prior to finalising the education scheme. Key to the success of this groundwork is the appointment of a Chief Education Adviser.

In control of a team of six, supported by consultants, the CEA will be responsible for a consultation and preparation and subsequent development of the scheme. The role is worthy of an individual with integrity, commitment and proven professional stature. A track record of achievement within education administration is essential together with a thorough understanding of the

special needs of inner city areas. We offer a salary of £38,000 plus attractive benefits, including relocation assistance. Other terms are to be negotiated. Upon successful completion of the planning stage there will be the opportunity to progress into a permanent position in top management within our education service.

Contact the Chief Executive, Gerald Jones, for an initial discussion or application form and further details on 01-871 8001.

Closing date for application: 14 March 1988.

Wandsworth
an equal opportunity employer

All applicants are considered on the basis of their suitability for the post. No consideration will be given to applicants who are not British citizens or permanent residents.

WEST LONDON INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION
HEADSHIP OF SCHOOL
OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION
(1 September 1988)

Applications are invited for the post of Head of the School of Physical Education. This new post, which will be established at Principal Lecturer level, arises from a decision of the Academic Board to award the existing School School status on account of its national and international reputation.

The appointee will be expected to take charge of the administration and management of the School under delegated powers. He/she will be required to give academic leadership. The Head of School will also be expected to play a leading part in developing research and consultancy. It is anticipated that the person appointed already will have made a significant personal contribution to research within his/her chosen field. The title Professor may be awarded to a suitable candidate.

The salary will be in accordance with the scale for Principal Lecturers which, in September 1988, is expected to be £18,549 - £27,900 plus Outer London Allowance.

For application form and further details please contact The Vice Principal, WILHE, Lancaster House, Borough Road, Isleworth, Middx TW7 5DU.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 20 April

It is anticipated that interviews will be held mid-May.

CORLEARS
SCHOOL
N.Y.C.

Sept 1988 opening for primary class teacher. P.T. phys. ed. teacher. Small class, devel. phis. Exp. preferred. Will assist with papers.

Resumés: M. Greenwood, 324 W. 15th St. N.Y.C. 10011.

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Worried about what to revise?
Worried about getting your grades?

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Contact Course Director: 75 Palace Gate, Kensington, London W8
TEL: 01-581 3307

The Courtyard Institute of Art/The Getty Conservation Institute
Courses in the Conservation of Wall Paintings 1988-89
Diploma in the Conservation of Wall Paintings
A three-year course is offered in the conservation of wall paintings. It is open to candidates with an appropriate degree, such as art, art history, archaeology, the natural sciences, and the social sciences. The course is designed to be a challenge for those or more of these fields of study.

Applications and two confidential recommendations, by 1 May 1988, to the Director, The Getty Conservation Institute, 1200 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90017, USA. Tel: (213) 875 8000. In which application forms and further particulars are available.

COURSES AND OPPORTUNITIES
AT UNIVERSITY
OPEN
DAYS

March 22 & 23, 1988
10 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

Further details from: Mrs. Sheila Dobson
University of Bradford
West Yorkshire BD7 1DP
Tel: 0274 723406, 723407, 723408, 723409, 723410, 723411, 723412, 723413, 723414, 723415, 723416, 723417, 723418, 723419, 723420, 723421, 723422, 723423, 723424, 723425, 723426, 723427, 723428, 723429, 723430, 723431, 723432, 723433, 723434, 723435, 723436, 723437, 723438, 723439, 723440, 723441, 723442, 723443, 723444, 723445, 723446, 723447, 723448, 723449, 723450, 723451, 723452, 723453, 723454, 723455, 723456, 723457, 723458, 723459, 723460, 723461, 723462, 723463, 723464, 723465, 723466, 723467, 723468, 723469, 723470, 723471, 723472, 723473, 723474, 723475, 723476, 723477, 723478, 723479, 723480, 723481, 723482, 723483, 723484, 723485, 723486, 723487, 723488, 723489, 723490, 723491, 723492, 723493, 723494, 723495, 723496, 723497, 723498, 723499, 723500, 723501, 723502, 723503, 723504, 723505, 723506, 723507, 723508, 723509, 723510, 723511, 723512, 723513, 723514, 723515, 723516, 723517, 723518, 723519, 723520, 723521, 723522, 723523, 723524, 723525, 723526, 723527, 723528, 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Gold for cool Witt but Manley and Ito provide the fire



Ice queens: the three skaters who melted hearts in Calgary on Saturday, Midori Ito, of Japan (left), Elizabeth Manley, the silver medal winner (centre), from Canada, and the East German, Katarina Witt, who won the gold. Report, page 31

Luton grasp the chance of a Wembley stage

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Luton Town..... 2
Oxford United..... 0

(Luton win 3-1 on aggregate)

The club that was technically knocked out of the Littlewoods Cup last season has qualified for the final. Luton Town, whose refusal to admit away supporters led to their suspension by the Football League, will share the Wembley stage with Arsenal on April 24.

The occasion then will differ hugely from yesterday's second leg of the semi-final. The audience will be almost 10 times bigger, the quality should be increased tenfold and the opposition will fashion more than a couple of attacks. Above all,

the surface, mercifully, will be natural.

Oxford United, the winners of the trophy two years ago, never raised a genuine attempt to regain it. Apart from the obvious difficulty of performing on a strange and artificial carpet, they had their limited talents behind an inadequate defensive system.

Haunted by the fearful memory of conceding a dozen goals in the two League fixtures against Luton, they withdrew Hebbard from midfield into a sweeper's role and offered their opponents the initiative. Luton, unmistakably the superior side, took it and never relinquished it.

Nothing was seen of the potentially dangerous Saunders, who maintained his record of scoring in every round by converting a

controversial penalty in the first leg. Little was shown of Oxford's collective adventure either until Luton were assured of returning to the national stadium for the first time for 29 years.

Harford's volley had already almost shaved a post and Foster's header had been cleared off the line by Phillips before Brian Stein put Luton ahead after half an hour. The goal itself was utterly predictable, though the build-up to it was less likely.

As Canton misread the flight of a long free kick from Grimes, Harford attempted to cushion the ball on his chest. Instead, it bounced away, conveniently, for Johnson. His instant chip was anticipated only by the elder of the Stein brothers, who ran in

front of Bardsley to head cleanly home.

Before the interval Luton had moved another spectacular step closer to claiming their first trophy in their 103-year history. Canton was guilty again on this occasion, of fouling the persistently troublesome, if ungainly, Harford. The offence was committed in a central position on the edge of the area.

Grimes promptly ended a personal barren sequence that had lasted for a year with a measured free kick that curled away from Judge. If the goals were memorable, television viewers will have witnessed for themselves the artificial game that is produced on such a surface.

That seven balls were used during the afternoon is not entirely explained by the low height of the stands. Luton will not complain about such a statistic. Yet they might recall another. During an otherwise unbeaten run of 14 games their lone conquerors happen to have been Arsenal.

LUTON TOWN: L. Searcy; T. Broadbent, A. Grimes, D. McDonough, S. Foster, M. Donaghy, D. Wilson, B. Stein, M. Harford, M. Stein, R. Johnson.
OXFORD UNITED: A. Judge; D. Bardsley, J. Dwyer, R. Hill (sub: G. Shelton), G. Briggs, T. Calton, T. Hebbard, M. Foy, D. Saunders, L. Phillips, P. Rhodes-Brown (sub: D. Lawlor).
Referee: Shaper.

Six on Wales FA short-list

The Welsh Football Association will be presented with a list of possible successors to Mike England, dismissed as national team manager four weeks ago, when it meets in Cardiff on Wednesday (Ian Ross writes).

A three-man sub-committee has drawn up a six-man short-list. Among the front runners

are John Mahoney, Alan Durbin and Peter Shreeve. Ken Brown and David Williams, the player-coach at Carrow Road, were included in a list but now seem unlikely to be considered.

If the post is not filled before Wales meet Yugoslavia in an international match at Swan-

sea on March 23, Terry Yorath, the Swansea manager, may be invited to take over in a caretaking capacity for that game.

● The tax man is to demand his cut from all ex-gratia payments made to players who change clubs, as from the new financial year beginning April.

English clubs fear loss of more leading players

The decision of the Italian Football Federation to allow its first division clubs to increase the number of foreign players on their books from two to three as from next season has been greeted with trepidation in England (Ian Ross writes).

The widely anticipated change in the rules had been strongly resisted by the Italian Players Union and officials of the national team who fear it may damage the prospects of the country's young players.

Philip Carter, president of the Football League, said:

"There is no doubt that the leading club sides in Europe

have considerably more power in pure financial terms than do their British counterparts." Gordon Taylor, secretary of the Professional Footballers Association said: "By taking the likes of Ian Rush and Gary Lineker, European clubs have already had the icing off our cake - it would now seem that they want the marzipan as well."

● Gary Lineker scored twice in Barcelona's 2-0 away win against Athletic Madrid.

● Leeds United expect to complete a £200,000 deal with Portsmouth for their former forward, Ian Baird, this week.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Douglas in final defeat

Desmond Douglas, the English table tennis champion for the last nine years, lost his title to Alan Cooke 21-15, 21-16, 21-17 in the singles final at Crawley last night.

Douglas beat Cooke in the last four finals, and it was his first defeat in the event since he lost to Denis Neale in the 1977 final. Fiona Elliott, the women's winner last year, lost in five games to Mandy Sainsbury.

Game loser

Del Harris, the British squash rackets champion, took his first game from Jansher Khan, the world champion, in the last of their six-match series. At Marlesham, near Ipswich, Jansher won 9-1, 7-9, 9-3.

High flier

Carlo Thränhardt, of West Germany, set an world indoor high jump record of 2.42 metres in West Berlin.



Cairns: a professional visit

Cairns returns

Lance Cairns, the former New Zealand Test cricketer, returns to Bishop Auckland as their club professional this season. He occupied the same role in 1981 and 82.

Norman cruise

Greg Norman easily won the Canberra Open golf tournament yesterday, finishing seven shots ahead of Bernhard Langer, the runner-up. It was the Australian's third win in five events since November.

Swiss bob deprives Hoppe of fours gold

From Chris Moore
Calgary

In the closest four-man bobsleigh competition in Olympic history, Ekkehard Fasser snatched the gold medal from Wolfgang Hoppe by just seven-hundredths of a second in Calgary yesterday.

The 1983 world champion, aged 36, from Switzerland, made the most of his early draw the third run yesterday in setting a track record of 55.68sec, which gave him a winning cushion.

Hoppe, the defending champion and clear overnight leader, was only thirteenth but fastest on the same run from the 24th starting slot in 56.77 as the track began to slow appreciably.

That left Fasser with a 0.16sec advantage going into the final run. Hoppe was down first in 57.34 for an aggregate time of 3min 47.58sec, setting his Swiss rival a winning target of 57.49.

It was always on after Fasser's crew of Kurt Meier, Marcel Fässler and Werner Stocker, clocked the second fastest start time of the competition of 5.17sec.

Hoppe thought that a crash by the Jamaicans before him had contributed to his demise. "There was a long hold-up and the crash left holes in the track which I felt near the bottom," he said.

Brent Rushlaw looked poised to give the United States a surprise bronze medal until Janis Kipurs, winner of last week's two-man competition, came down last to beat him by just 0.02sec to give the Soviet Union their first four-man medal.

Mark Tout and Tom De La Hunt, of Britain, finished a disappointing twelfth and seventeenth respectively. Tout at least had the fifth fastest time on the final run.

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Lowly Salford send Saints marching out

By Keith Macklin

The greatest Rugby League Challenge Cup sensation for many years sent St Helens crashing out of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup at Salford, who are threatened with relegation from the first division, scored four tries and beat the Saints 22-18 at The Willows.

Salford, given no chance against the rampant Saints, tackled their illustrious visitors into disarray, made unexpectedly easy inroads into a patchy defence, and left St Helens, Alex Murphy and 5,000 visiting supporters in the 8,000 crowd to contemplate the wreckage in stunned disbelief.

Although St Helens scored first with a Burke try and goal from Tanner, Salford, inspired by the backs, Gibson and Cairns, and the forwards, Worrall and McGuire, were ahead 12-6 at half-time with tries from Gibson and Worrall and two goals from Jones.

It looked uncertain for Salford when Bloor was sent to the sin-bin for 10 minutes for fouling Holding, and Loughlin's penalty made it 12-8, but in a nerve-racking finish both sides scored two tries.

Llewellyn takes title

Lusaka - David Llewellyn, the Welsh World Cup player, won the £75,000 Zambia Open golf championship in here yesterday after a thrilling tussle with William Fish, from Surrey (a Special Correspondent writes). Llewellyn scored a last-round of 70, three under par, for a 12-under-par total of 280.

He started the final round three strokes clear of Fish, and there was no other player within sight of offering either of them a challenge. However, Fish's golf has been a revelation on the five-nation African safari tour and he has won more than £18,000. He gave Llewellyn, aged 36, a good run for his money yesterday and in the end it was sheer experience which carried the Yorkshire-based Welshman through. His superb pitch and run took the ball to within two inches of the 18th flag and Fish conceded.

Fish completed the round with a birdie for a fighting 68. However, it was not the best round of the day. John McHenry, of Ireland, recorded eight birdies in a round of 66.

● LOS ANGELES: Chip Beck, of North Carolina, on 199, leads the Open here by three strokes from Steve Elkington, Jay Haas and Ed Flori, all in joint second, after three rounds. Scores, page 31

Hearn's plans blocked by rival managers

By Steve Acteson

The World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) yesterday reacted positively against Barry Hearn's announcement that he would be staging two unsanctioned tournaments.

Following a board meeting in Derby, John Virgo, the WPBSA chairman, announced a new top-16 tournament to fill the slot that will be vacated by the world doubles championship, which has been scrapped.

And, to thwart effectively Hearn's plan to invite the most successful eight performers from this season to his new eight-man event next December, Ian Doyle and Howard Kruger, board members and rival managers, said their players would definitely not take part in Hearn's tournament. Hearn had hoped to attract Stephen Hendry, the Scottish champion who is managed by Doyle, and John Parrott, a member of Kruger's Framework organization.

with vital touchdowns from Jones and Worrall keeping the Salford nose marginally in front to the end.

Salford go into tonight's draw for the semi-finals for the first time since 1970, joining Wigan, the clear favourites, the Cup holders Halifax and Hull.

Wigan beat Widnes 10-1 at Central Park on Saturday, but Widnes were desperately unlucky. After a superb first-half tackling stint, they touched down twice, only to have the efforts disallowed when many people at the ground saw nothing wrong.

Paul Dixon scored two tries as Halifax beat Hull Kingston Rovers 26-4 after trailing 4-0 against a fierce wind in the first half. Hull gave Humber-side a semi-final representative by beating Second Division Doncaster 27-12 after trailing 12-2.

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Third round: Hull 27, Doncaster 12; Hull KR 4, Halifax 26; Salford 22, St Helens 18; Wigan 10, Widnes 1.

STONES BATTLE CHAMPIONSHIP: Swinton 18, Warrington 22. Second division: Carlisle 8, Wakefield 22; Dewsbury 10, York 6; Huddersfield 23, Rochdale 22; Wakeley 30, Whitehaven 18; Octham 15, Featherstone 18; Sheffield 12, Batley 18; Workington 12, Mansfield 32.

END COLUMN

Defeated Bath are out but not down

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

Salt was rubbed remorselessly into the wounds of the Bath rugby club on Saturday. During their John Player Special Cup quarter-final with Moseley their horrified supporters were forced to watch them miss a dozen assorted kicks at goal before going down 4-3. Meanwhile Stuart Barnes, the former England stand-off half who is making his way back from injury, was collecting 22 points for Bath's second team.

A neutral might argue that their exit now is healthy for the competition as a whole but it has been a remarkable run. Since their 17-0 victory over Headingley in January, 1984, Bath have established a John Player record of 22 consecutive wins.

John Player Special Cup reports, page 30

Their style has had its detractors but no one can argue with their exceptional preparation which has kept them so long at the top. Even now they will remain the club to beat because their players are all young enough to come again. In Rugby Union terms, what they have done is phenomenal. Rugby clubs cannot, broadly speaking, and whatever critics may say, buy talent; they must make it for themselves and Bath have done just that.

Because their players have not been genuinely perceived to be successful in the international arena, they have suffered continual criticism. Perhaps above all, because they have been unsmiling giants who have developed a sometimes unattractive hard edge to their game, hating to lose, they have not been English enough. Gallant failure has not been part of their schedule.

Perhaps, too, on Saturday some of Bath's players felt that they had climbed their mountain this season by beating Leicester in the Cup's fifth round. "I told them Leicester was only a building brick on the way to Twickenham," Jack Rowell, Bath's coach, said yesterday. "Some games dissolve into a dog fight where you have to grit it out and the Moseley game was one of those."

"Over the years we have been in games when we have always had a bit in reserve, because we have had the players, tactically and technically we have been in advance of most sides. This season other clubs have been getting their act together."

"Our injuries have spooked as quite a bit this season and several of our players have had enough rugby after being involved in the World Cup last summer. But we still have a cracking squad of players. We don't take the view that the rest of the season is a write-off. The new Cup run doesn't commence at the beginning of next season, it starts this week."

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